



Top News Stories from 1972

[Previous Year](#) | [Next Year](#)[World](#) | [U.S.](#) | [Economics](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Science](#)[Year by Year: 1900-2014](#)[View a 1972 calendar](#)

World Events

- President [Nixon](#) makes unprecedented eight-day visit to Communist [China](#) and meets with [Mao Zedong](#) (Feb. 17).
- [Britain](#) takes over direct rule of [Northern Ireland](#) in bid for peace (March 24).
- Eleven [Israeli](#) athletes at [Olympic Games](#) in Munich are killed after eight members of an Arab [terrorist](#) group invades Olympic Village; five guerrillas and one policeman are also killed (Sept. 5).
- Nixon orders "Christmas bombing" of North [Vietnam](#) (Dec.). Background: [Vietnam War](#)

World Statistics

Population: 4.378 billion

[population by decade](#)[More World Statistics...](#)

U.S. Events

- Gov. [George C. Wallace](#) of [Alabama](#) is shot by [Arthur H. Bremer](#) at Laurel, Md., political rally (May 15).
- [US Supreme Court](#) rules that [death penalty](#) is unconstitutional (June 29).
- Five men are apprehended by police in attempt to bug [Democratic National Committee](#) headquarters in Washington, D.C.'s Watergate complex—start of the [Watergate scandal](#) (June 17).

U.S. Statistics

President: [Richard M. Nixon](#)Vice President: [Spiro T. Agnew](#)

Population: 209,896,021

Life expectancy: 71.2 years

Violent Crime Rate (per 1,000): 39.6

Property Crime Rate (per 1,000) 35.6

[More U.S. Statistics...](#)

Economics

US GDP (1998 dollars): \$1,237.30 billion

Federal spending: \$230.68 billion

Federal debt \$435.9 billion

Median Household Income(current dollars):

9,697

billion

Consumer Price Index: \$41.8

Unemployment: 5.9%

Cost of a first-class stamp: \$0.08

[More Economics...](#)

Sports

Super Bowl

Dallas d. Miami

World Series

Oakland A's d. Cincinnati (4-3)

NBA Championship

LA Lakers d. New York

Stanley Cup

Boston d. NY Rangers

Wimbledon

Women:

Billie Jean King d. E. Goolagong

(6-3 6-3)

Men: Stan Smith d. I. Nastase (4-6 6-3 6-3 4-6 7-5)

Kentucky Derby Champion

Riva Ridge

NCAA Basketball Championship

UCLA d. Florida St. (81-76)

NCAA Football Champions

USC (12-0-0) [1972 Summer Olympics](#)

Entertainment

Events

Sports Links

[Pro Football Summary](#)

[Pro Basketball Summary](#)

[Pro Baseball Summary](#)

Entertainment Awards

- Time Inc. transmits HBO, the first pay cable network.
- Women dominate the [1971 Grammy Awards](#), taking all four top categories. [Carole King](#) won Record, Album and Song of the Year, while Carly Simon takes the Best New Artist award.
- The National Institute of Mental Health and the surgeon general issue a report that claims exposure to violence on television fosters aggression in children.
- [Gloria Steinem](#)'s *Ms* magazine debuts.
- M*A*S*H premieres on CBS.
- Atari introduces the arcade version of *Pong*, the first video game. The home version comes out in 1974.

Movies

- *The Godfather*, *Deliverance*, *Cabaret*, *Sleuth*, *The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie*

Books

- Maxine Kumin, *Up Country*
- John Gardner, *The Sunlight Dialogues*
- John Ashberry, *Three Poems*
- James Merrill, *Braving the Elements*
- [Eudora Welty](#), *The Optimist's Daughter*

Science

- CAT ([Computerized Axial Tomography](#)) scanning is developed in England.
- The compact disk is developed by RCA (US).
- The antidepressant Prozac (fluoxetine) is developed by Bryan B. Malloy (Scotland) and Klaus K. Schmiegel (US). Background: [Health & Nutrition](#)

Pulitzer Prizes

Fiction:

Angle of Repose, Wallace Stegner

Music: *Windows*, Jacob Druckman

Academy Award, Best Picture: *The French Connection*, Philip D'Antoni, producer (Twentieth Century-Fox)

Nobel Prize for Literature: Heinrich Böll (Germany)

Record of the Year:

"It's Too Late," Carole King

Album of the Year: *Tapestry*, Carole King (Ode)

Song of the Year: "You've Got a Friend," Carole King, songwriter

Miss America: Laurie Lea Schaefer (OH)

[More Entertainment Awards...](#)

Nobel Prizes in Science

Chemistry: Christian Boehmer Anfinsen, Stanford Moore, and William Howard Stein (all US), for pioneering studies in enzymes

Physics: John Bardeen, Leon N. Cooper, and John Robert Schrieffer (all US), for theory of superconductivity, where electrical resistance in

- The video disk is introduced by Philips Company (Netherlands).
- Electronic mail is introduced. Queen Elizabeth will send her first email in 1976. Background: [Computers and Internet](#)
- *Apollo XVII*, the last manned [moon](#) landing to date, returns to Earth with 250 pounds of lunar samples. Background: [US Staffed Space Flights](#)

certain metals vanishes above absolute zero temperature

Physiology or Medicine:

Gerald M. Edelman (US), and Rodney R. Porter (UK), for research on the chemical structure and nature of antibodies

[More Nobel Prizes in 1998...](#)

Death

- [Gil Hodges](#)
- [J. Edgar Hoover](#)
- [Harry S. Truman](#)

[Previous Year](#) | [Next Year](#)

or enter a year:



[Year by Year: 1900-2014](#)

Flashcards

Hone your math skills with our flashcards!

GO

New Games

Discover several new games that we've added to our collection!

PLAY GAMES

Hangman

Grow your vocab the fun way!



FEN Learning is part of Sandbox Networks, a digital learning company that operates education services and products for the 21st century.