

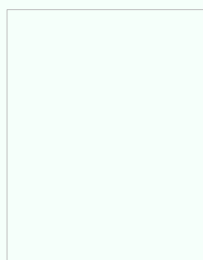
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- [Geography](#)
- [History](#)
- [Mathematics](#)
- [Science](#)
- [Society](#)
- [Technology](#)
- [All portals](#)

Today's featured article



Edward Drinker Cope (1840–1897) was an American [paleontologist](#) and [comparative anatomist](#), as well as a noted [herpetologist](#) and [ichthyologist](#). Born to a wealthy [Quaker](#) family, Cope

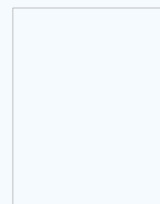
distinguished himself as a child prodigy interested in science; he published his first scientific paper at the age of nineteen. Cope had little formal scientific training, and eschewed a teaching position for field work. He made regular trips to the American West prospecting in the 1870s and 1880s, often as part of [United States Geological Survey](#) teams. A personal feud between Cope and paleontologist [Othniel Charles Marsh](#) led to a period of intense fossil-finding competition now known as the [Bone Wars](#). Cope's scientific pursuits nearly bankrupted him, but his contributions helped define the field of American paleontology. He was a prodigious writer, with 1,400 papers published over his lifetime, although his rivals would debate the accuracy of his rapidly published works. Cope discovered, described, and named more than 1,000 vertebrate species, including hundreds of fishes and dozens of dinosaurs. His theories on the origin of mammalian molars and "[Cope's Law](#)", on the gradual enlargement of mammalian species, are among his theoretical contributions. ([more...](#))

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In the news

- [Kang Kek Iew](#) (*pictured*) is sentenced to 35 years' imprisonment by the [Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia](#) for his role in the [Khmer Rouge](#) regime in [Democratic Kampuchea](#) from 1975 to 1979.
 - Thousands of [classified documents](#) related to the [War in Afghanistan](#) are published by [Wikileaks](#), with details simultaneously released in three of the world's major papers.
 - In [cycling](#), [Alberto Contador](#) of [Spain](#) [wins](#) the [Tour de France](#).
 - At least 20 people are killed and 100 others injured in [a stampede](#) at the [Love Parade](#) music festival in [Duisburg](#), [Germany](#).
 - [Venezuela](#) [severs diplomatic relations](#) with [Colombia](#).
 - Astronomers discover that [R136a1](#) is the most [massive star](#) ever found.
- [Wikinews](#) – [Recent deaths](#) – [More current events...](#)



On this day...

July 28: [Independence Day](#) in [Peru](#) (1821)

- [1809](#) – [Peninsular](#)

Did you know...

From Wikipedia's [newest articles](#):

- ... that [Steven Mithen](#) speculates that the [Neanderthals](#) (*rendition pictured*) had a musical [linguistic system](#) which he calls "hmmmmm"?
- ... that emergency surgery was required to save [Trent McCleary](#)'s life after he was hit in the throat by a [slapshot](#) during a [National Hockey League](#) game?
- ... that more than a hundred people were killed by the [military junta of Natusch Busch](#) during its 16-day reign in [Bolivia](#) in 1979?
- ... that [Filipino human rights](#) activist [Etta Rosales](#) was instrumental in bargaining a compromise deal between the dictatorship of [Ferdinand Marcos](#) and some of its victims?
- ... that the [Pittsburgh Wayfinder System](#) is composed of more than 1,500 [traffic signs](#) that point the way to popular destinations in the [City of Pittsburgh](#)?
- ... that after [Bolesław Krzywousty](#) defeated [Pomeranian dukes](#) at the [Battle of Nakło](#) he gave [Swietopelk Nakielski Nakło](#), and other [grods](#) (Slavic settlements) on the river [Noteć](#) as a fief?
- ... that the [Chicago Cubs](#) have had the first selection in [Major League Baseball's entry draft](#) only once in the [draft's](#) 45-year history?
- ... that [the world's first looping roller coasters](#) were tested with [eggs](#), [flowers](#), [glasses of water](#), and even a [monkey](#) before human riders were allowed?

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[war](#): [Frenchn](#) forces under [Joseph Bonaparte](#) suffered 7,270 casualties while [Sir Arthur Wellesley's](#)

[Anglo-Spanish](#) army had 6,700 at [an inconclusive battle](#) in [Talavera, Spain](#).

- [1896](#) – [Miami](#), today the principal city and the center of the [South Florida metropolitan area](#), the seventh largest metro area in the [United States](#), [was incorporated](#) with a population of just over 300.
- [1976](#) – [An earthquake](#) measuring at least 8.2 on the [Richter magnitude scale](#), one of the deadliest in history, flattened [Tangshan, China](#), killing at least 240,000 people.
- [2001](#) – At the [World Aquatics Championships](#) in [Fukuoka, Japan](#), [Australian Ian Thorpe](#) (*pictured*) became the first swimmer to win six gold medals at a single World Championships.
- [2005](#) – The [Provisional Irish Republican Army](#) announced an end to its armed campaign to overthrow [British](#) rule in [Northern Ireland](#) to create a [United Ireland](#).

More anniversaries: [July 27](#) – [July 28](#) – [July 29](#)

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Today's featured picture

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semi-transparent surfaces in which [phase shift](#) and [interference](#) of the reflections [modulates](#) the incident light.

Photo: [Muhammad Mahdi Karim](#)

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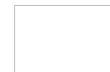
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- [Discussion](#)

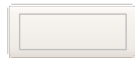
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- [Read](#)
- [View source](#)
- [View history](#)

Actions

Search



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- [Main page](#)
- [Contents](#)
- [Featured content](#)
- [Current events](#)
- [Random article](#)

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- [About Wikipedia](#)
- [Community portal](#)
- [Recent changes](#)
- [Contact Wikipedia](#)
- [Donate to Wikipedia](#)
- [Help](#)

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- [What links here](#)
- [Related changes](#)
- [Upload file](#)
- [Special pages](#)

- [Permanent link](#)
- [Cite this page](#)

Print/export

- [Create a book](#)
- [Download as PDF](#)

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- [Simple English](#)
- [العربية](#)
- [Bahasa Indonesia](#)
- [Bahasa Melayu](#)
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- [Česky](#)
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- [Euskara](#)
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- [Slovenščina](#)
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