

January

January 23 – Iran-European Union relations: The European Union adopts an embargo against Iran in protest of that nation's continued effort to enrich uranium.

February

February 1 – At least 79 people were killed and more than 1,000 were injured after a football match in Port Said, Egypt.
February 6 – The Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II marks the 60th anniversary of her accession to the thrones of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and the 60th anniversary of her becoming Head of the Commonwealth.
February 15 – A fire at a prison in Comayagua, Honduras kills 360.
February 19 – Iran suspends oil exports to Britain and France following sanctions put in place by the European Union and the United States in January.
February 21 – Greek government debt crisis: Eurozone finance ministers reach an agreement on a second, €130-billion Greek bailout.

March

March 4 – A series of explosions are reported at a munitions dump in Brazzaville, the capital of the Republic of the Congo, with at least 250 people dead.
March 13 – After 244 years since its first publication, the *Encyclopædia Britannica* discontinues its print edition.
March 22 – The President of Mali, Amadou Toumani Touré, is ousted in a coup d'état after mutinous soldiers attack government offices.

April

April 6 – The National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad unilaterally declares the independence of Azawad from Mali.
April 12 – Mutinous soldiers in Guinea-Bissau stage a *coup d'état* and take control of the capital city, Bissau. They arrest interim President Raimundo Pereira and leading presidential candidate Carlos Gomes Júnior in the midst of a presidential election campaign.

February 27 – Arab Spring: As a result of ongoing protests, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh is succeeded by Vice President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Al-Hadi.



May

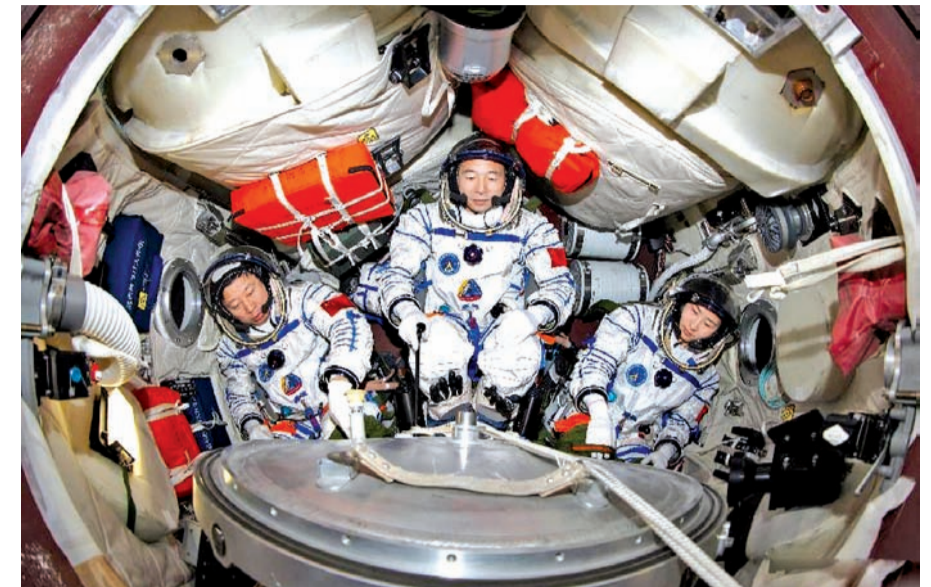
May 2 – A pastel version of *The Scream*, by Norwegian painter Edvard Munch, sells for US\$120 million in a New York City auction, setting a new world record for an auctioned work of art.
May 12 – August 12 – The 2012 World Expo takes place in Yeosu, South Korea.



May 22 – Tokyo Skytree, the tallest self-supporting tower in the world at 634 metres high, is opened to public.

June

June 5-6 – The century's second and last solar transit of Venus occurs. The next pair are predicted to occur in 2117 and 2125.



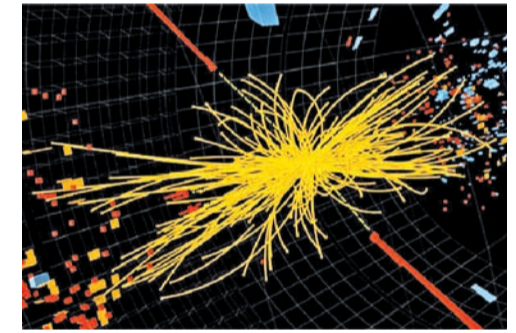
June 24 – Shenzhou 9, a Chinese spacecraft carrying three Chinese astronauts, including the first-ever female one, docked manually with an orbiting module Tiangong 1, first time as the country, making them as the third country, after the United States and Russia, to successfully perform the mission.

June 27 – Lonesome George, the last known individual of the Pinta Island Tortoise subspecies, dies at a Galapagos National Park, thus making the subspecies extinct.

2012 - Highlights

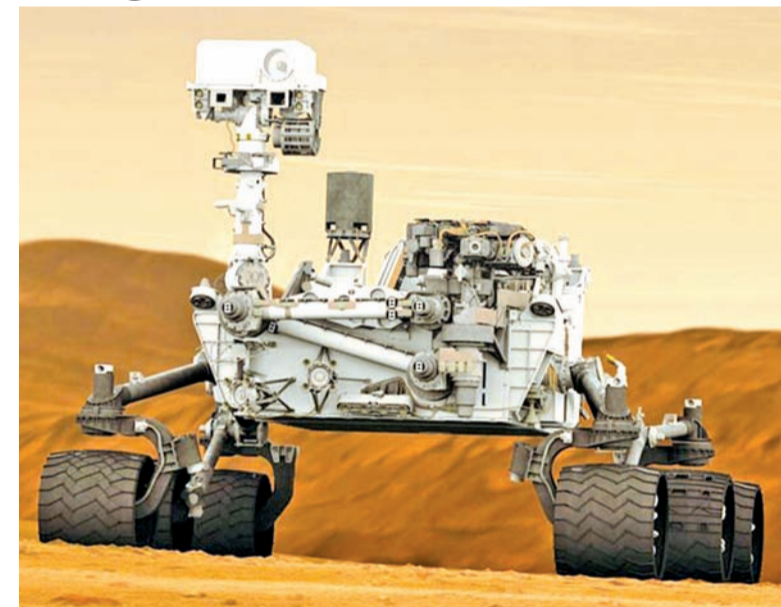
The year that was...

July

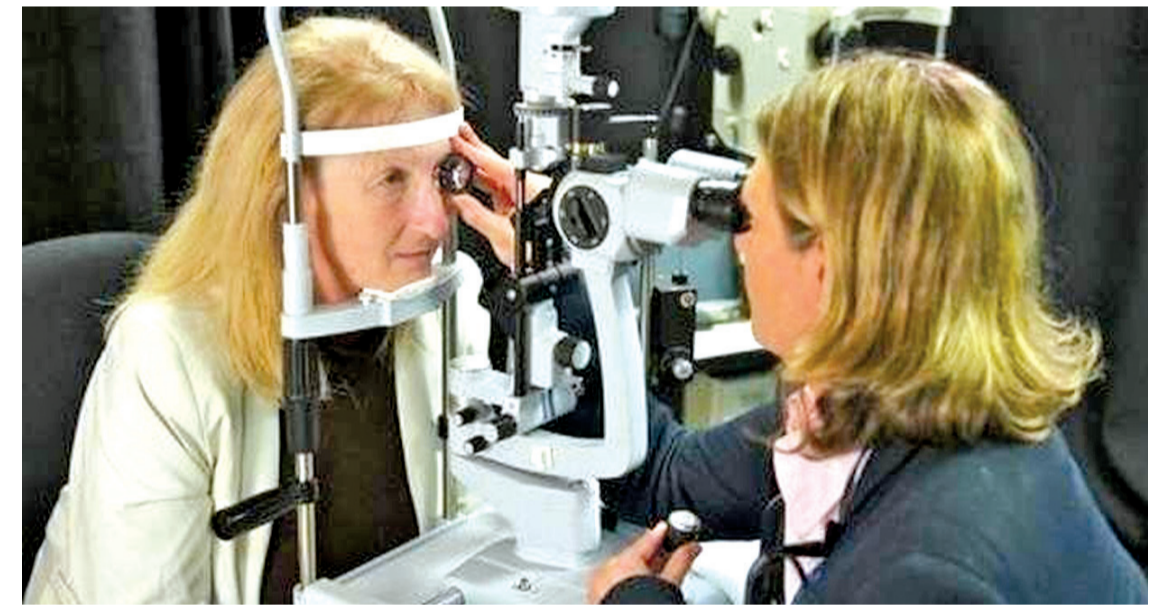


July 4 – CERN announces the discovery of a new particle with properties consistent with the Higgs boson after experiments at the Large Hadron Collider.
July 27 – August 12 – The 2012 Summer Olympics are held in London, England, United Kingdom.
July 30-31 – In the worst power outage in world history, the 2012 India blackouts leave 620 million people without power.

August



August 6 – Curiosity, the Mars Science Laboratory mission's rover, successfully lands on Mars.



August 31 – Researchers successfully perform the first implantation of an early prototype bionic eye with 24 electrodes.
Armenia severs diplomatic relations with Hungary, following the extradition to Azerbaijan and subsequent pardoning of Ramil Safarov, who was convicted of killing an Armenian soldier in Hungary in 2004. The move is also met with fierce criticism from other countries.

September



September 7 – Canada officially cuts diplomatic ties with Iran by closing its embassy in Tehran and ordered the expulsion of Iranian diplomats from Ottawa, over support for Syria, nuclear plans and human rights abuses.
September 11 – Garment factory fires in the Pakistani cities of Karachi and Lahore kill 315 and seriously injure more than 250.
September 11 – 27 – A series of attacks are directed against United States diplomatic missions worldwide, as well as diplomatic missions of Germany, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. In the US, opinions are divided over whether the attacks are a reaction to a Youtube trailer for the film *Innocence of Muslims*. In Libya, among the dead is US ambassador J. Christopher Stevens.

October

October 14 – Austrian skydiver Felix Baumgartner becomes the first person to break the sound barrier without any machine assistance during a record space dive out of the Red Bull Stratos helium-filled balloon from 24 miles (39 kilometres) over Roswell, New Mexico in the United States.



November

November 14 - 21 – Israel launches Operation Pillar of Defense against the Palestinian-governed Gaza Strip, killing Hamas military chief Ahmed Jabari. In the following week 140 Palestinians and five Israelis are killed in an ensuing cycle of violence. A ceasefire between Israel and Hamas is announced by Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohamed Kamel Amr and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton after the week-long escalation in hostilities in Southern Israel and the Gaza Strip.



November 25 - December 2 – Typhoon Bopha, known as "Pablo" in the Philippines, kills at least 1,067 with around 838 people still missing. The typhoon caused considerable damage in the island of Mindanao.



November 29 – The UN General Assembly approves a motion granting Palestine non-member observer state status.

October 24 - 30 – Hurricane Sandy kills at least 209 people in the Caribbean, Bahamas, United States and Canada. Considerable storm surge damage causes major disruption to the eastern seaboard of the United States.

December

December 8 – In Qatar, the UN Climate Change Conference agrees to extend the Kyoto Protocol until 2020.