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From today's featured article



Spacewar! on a PDP-1

Spacewar! is a [space combat video game](#) developed in 1962 by [Steve Russell](#) in collaboration with [Martin Graetz](#), [Wayne Wiitanen](#), [Bob Saunders](#), [Steve Piner](#), and others. The first video game known to be played at multiple computer installations, it was popular in the small American programming community in the 1960s. Players wage a [dogfight](#) between two spaceships with limited weaponry and fuel in the [gravity well](#) of a star. *Spacewar!* was written for the newly installed [Digital Equipment PDP-1](#), a [minicomputer](#), at the [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#), and the [public domain](#) code was widely [ported](#). Saunders built an early [gamepad](#) controller for the game. It directly inspired many electronic games, such as the first commercial [arcade video games](#), *[Galaxy Game](#)* and *[Computer Space](#)* (both 1971), and later games such as *[Asteroids](#)* (1979). In 2007, *Spacewar!* was named to a list of the ten most important video games of all time, which formed the start of the [game canon](#) at the [Library of Congress](#).

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Did you know ...

- ... that to promote *[The Simpsons Movie](#)* in 2007, [20th Century Fox](#) gifted **a sculpture of a doughnut** (*pictured*) to the town of [Springfield, New Zealand](#)?
- ... that [James Edward Moore](#) was the chief of staff of the [Ninth United States Army](#), which [Omar Bradley](#) described as "uncommonly normal"?
- ... that to include the popular [Marian hymn](#) "**[Maria zu lieben, ist allzeit mein Sinn](#)**" in the [first common Catholic hymnal in German](#), [Friedrich Dörr](#) retained only its first line?
- ... that [Keith Hartwig](#) overcame an injury that he was told would end his career in high school, and went on to play in the [National Football League](#)?
- ... that no single [political party](#) has a [mandate](#) in a [coalition government](#)?
- ... that [Freedom of Religion South Africa](#) filed [an unsuccessful lawsuit](#) to keep [child spanking](#) legal?
- ... that [Jerome Robbins](#) choreographed *[In G Major](#)* for [New York City Ballet](#)'s Ravel Festival, in celebration of [the composer's](#) centenary?
- ... that despite claims to the contrary, novelist [Walter Tevis](#) insisted that the characters of "Minnesota Fats" and "Fast Eddie" in *[The Hustler](#)* were fictitious?



Springfield Doughnut

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In the news

- [Daniel Noboa](#) (*pictured*) **is elected** [President of Ecuador](#).
- The [National Party](#), led by [Christopher Luxon](#), wins the most seats in [the New Zealand general election](#).

- Australian voters **reject** altering [the Constitution](#) to establish an [Indigenous Voice to Parliament](#).
- NASA's ***Psyche*** mission is launched to explore the metal-rich asteroid [16 Psyche](#).

Ongoing: [Israel– Hamas war](#) · [Russian invasion of Ukraine](#) ([timeline](#))

Recent deaths: [Roland Griffiths](#) · [Carla Bley](#) · [Eric Tweedale](#) · [Issam Abdallah](#) ·

[D. J. Gokulakrishnan](#) · [Cal Wilson](#)



Daniel Noboa

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On this day

October 19

- 1579 – **A ceremony was held** in Edinburgh marking the coming of age of [James VI of Scotland](#) as an adult ruler.
- 1752 – *The Pennsylvania Gazette* published a statement by [Benjamin Franklin](#) describing a **kite experiment** (*depicted*) to determine the electrical nature of [lightning](#).
- 1914 – [First World War](#): [Allied](#) forces began engaging German troops at the **First Battle of Ypres**.
- 1987 – [Iran–Iraq War](#): [U.S. Navy](#) forces **destroyed** two Iranian [oil platforms](#) in the [Persian Gulf](#) in response to an Iranian missile attack on [a Kuwaiti oil tanker](#) three days earlier.
- 2013 – British [YouTube](#) collective the **Sidemen** were formed as a [Rockstar Games Social Club](#) group in *Grand Theft Auto Online*.



Benjamin Franklin Drawing Electricity from the Sky by Benjamin West (c. 1816)

John Rolph (d. 1870) · **Eleanor Norcross** (d. 1923) · **Demetrios Christodoulou** (b. 1951) · **Ali Treki** (d. 2015)

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Today's featured picture



The **mistletoebird** (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*), also known as the mistletoe flowerpecker, is a species of [flowerpecker](#) native to most of Australia (though absent from [Tasmania](#) and the driest desert areas) and also to the eastern [Maluku Islands](#) of Indonesia in the [Arafura Sea](#) between Australia and New Guinea. The mistletoebird eats mainly the berries of the parasitic [mistletoe](#) and is a vector for the spread of the mistletoe's seeds through its digestive system. The mistletoebird is small, being 9–10 centimetres long and 7.5–11 grams in weight. The male is glossy blue-black above, with a red chest and a slight red under-tail, and a black centre stripe running down its white belly. The female is dark grey above, with a white throat, light grey underparts, and just a touch of pinkish-red under the tail. The eyes, bill, and legs are black; the bill is just over a centimetre long, slender, slightly down-curved and sharply pointed. Immature birds are similar to the female, but have an orange-pink bill instead of black. This male mistletoebird was photographed in the [Round Hill Nature Reserve](#) in New South Wales, Australia.

Other areas of Wikipedia

- **Community portal** – The central hub for editors, with resources, links, tasks, and announcements.
- **Village pump** – Forum for discussions about Wikipedia itself, including policies and technical issues.
- **Site news** – Sources of news about Wikipedia and the broader Wikimedia movement.
- **Teahouse** – Ask basic questions about using or editing Wikipedia.
- **Help desk** – Ask questions about using or editing Wikipedia.
- **Reference desk** – Ask research questions about encyclopedic topics.
- **Content portals** – A unique way to navigate the encyclopedia.

Wikipedia's sister projects

Wikipedia is written by volunteer editors and hosted by the [Wikimedia Foundation](#), a non-profit organization that also hosts a range of other volunteer [projects](#):



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Free media repository



Meta-Wiki

Wikimedia project coordination



Wikidata

Free knowledge base



Wikiquote

Collection of quotations



Wikispecies

Directory of species



Wikivoyage

Free travel guide



MediaWiki

Wiki software development



Wikibooks

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