

HISTORICAL FACTS ABOUT THE PHILIPPINES

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1. The Philippine Islands were discovered by Magellan, a Portuguese navigator, on March 16, 1521.
2. The earliest Spanish explorers who came to the Philippines first landed at Homohon, Samar.
3. The first Spanish settlement in the Philippines was in Cebu.
4. At Limasawa, Leyte, the first Catholic mass was celebrated by the Spaniards on March 31, 1521.
5. The Negritos or Aetas were the first inhabitants of the Philippines, it is believed.
6. Villalobos named the archipelago *Islas Filipinas* (Philippine Islands) in honor of Philip II who was king of Spain at the time.
7. Magellan was killed on Mactan island, Cebu.
8. On June 3, 1571, Legaspi founded the Spanish city of Manila.
9. The first Spanish governor of the Philippines was Legaspi and the last was de los Rios.
10. The oldest preserved book printed in the Philippines is *Arte y Reglas de la Lengua Tagala* (*Arts and Rules of the Tagalog Language*) printed in 1610.
11. The San Juan de Dios Hospital, which was founded by Juan Clemente in 1578, is the oldest hospital in the Far East.
12. Bishop Miguel Lino de Espeleta was the first Filipino archbishop and governor-general during the Spanish regime.
13. The University of Santo Tomas, which was established in 1611, is the oldest university under the American flag.
14. Jose Rizal, greatest Filipino hero and patriot, was born in Calamba, Laguna, on June 19, 1861, and was executed at Bagumbayan, Manila, on December 30, 1896.
15. General Merritt was the first military governor of the Philippines under the American regime, and William H. Taft was the first American civil governor.
16. Ventura de los Reyes was the first Filipino delegate to the Spanish *Cortes*; Benito Legarda and Pablo Ocampo were the first resident commissioners in Washington.
17. Cayetano Arellano was the first Filipino Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines.
18. Ignacio Villamor was the first Filipino president of the University of the Philippines.
19. Frank Murphy was the last American governor-general and the first High Commissioner from the United States.
20. Manuel Quezon is the first president of the Philippine Commonwealth.
21. Francis B. Sayre is the present High Commissioner from the United States.
22. The Philippines are to be given complete independence by the United States in 1946.
23. The Philippines have been governed by a foreign nation for more than 400 years.

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