## Science

over-the-counter tooth-whitening products.

Recycling is a priority today, but around 1200 to 1400, people would hurl garbage and slop out their windows into alleys that swarmed with rats, flies and pigs.



1121

1347

1418

The Pony Express travels between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California. The 2000-mile distance takes 10 days. Today, e-mail is almost instantaneous.

When a royal Japanese family stains their teeth black in 1233, it quickly becomes a sign of beauty. White teeth are a sign of beauty today, with Americans spending \$100 million a year on

Oriental spices are used to disguise the bad taste of spoiled meat in 1499. Meat sold in the U.S. today

must pass USDA standards.



C The Black Death sweeps Western Europe from 1347-51 and kills over 25 million people (one in four). Today, 22.6 million people live with AIDS, which is identified in 1981. Spectacles are invented in 1286 in Italy. The first practical contact lenses are developed in 1877 followed by plastic lenses in 1954 Laser surgery can now correct certain eyesight problems.



Scottish blacksmith Kirkpatrick Macmillan creates the first bicycle, then called a velocipede, in 1839. Bicycling is a competitive sport around the world today with some bikes costing several thousand dollars.



♦ In 1783, it takes Thomas Jefferson five days to travel 90 miles using public transportation. Today, the Concorde airplane travels at 1,336 miles per hour and crosses the Atlantic Ocean in under three hours.

