

# Today in Math History...

*-7 November 1631*

**Pierre Gassendi observes the transit of Mercury across the sun, the first observation of a transit of a planet.** This had been predicted by Kepler in 1629.

*A transit of Mercury across the Sun takes place when the planet Mercury comes between the Sun and the Earth, and Mercury is seen as a small black dot moving across the face of the Sun. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of November, 2006, the planet Mercury could be last seen going across the sun. The best place to have observed the transit on that date was in Hawaii.*

