

Famous Firsts

Every era has its famous firsts, and the sixties is no exception. On this page you will find a number of firsts along with a brief discussion of each. After each one, write about the improvements or advances that have been made in that area today.

Heart Transplant In 1967 the first successful heart transplant operation was performed by Dr. Christiaan Barnard of South Africa. The heart of a 25-year old accident victim was placed in the body of heart-disease patient Louis Washansky, but the procedure was not entirely successful. Washkansky died of pneumonia some weeks later. _____

Giant Bridge The Verrazano-Narrows bridge opened in New York in November of 1964. It stretched 4,260 feet across the entrance to New York City harbor, from Staten Island to Brooklyn. At the time, it was the world's longest suspension bridge. _____

The Minidress Flappers of the Roaring Twenties wore short hemlines which shocked their elders, but they could not compare to the minidresses sported by women in the sixties. Midhigh length skirts became a symbol of the rebellious decade's younger generation. _____

Ocean Depths In 1960 the submersible Trieste descended nearly seven miles to the bottom of the Mariana Trench, the deepest part of the Pacific Ocean. The journey down to the bottom of the ocean floor took five hours. _____

Endangered Species The Department of the Interior issued its first endangered species list on March 1, 1967. Included in the list were seventy-eight birds and animals that were threatened with extinction. _____

Trekkies On September 8, 1966, the science fiction series *Star Trek* premiered on the NBC television network. Although it only ran for three seasons, it has continued to be popular in reruns and has amassed a huge following of devoted fans (once called "Trekkies" and now called "Trekers"). By the midnineties, the show had spawned several feature films and three other television series. _____

