

Approach of the Millennium Brings a Prayer for Peace

Science has wrought the greatest accomplishments of the second millennium, yet it can only go so far. Americans say the most compelling challenges for the future lie in another direction: resolving the human capacity for racism and war.

Walking on the moon, inventing the computer and the automobile, perfecting lifesaving vaccines – all rank among the greatest accomplishments of modern times, a unique, open-ended ABC News poll has found.

But science has its limits. Looking ahead to the next thousand years, Americans' concerns are as ancient as they are current: Our greatest hope, unabashedly, is for world peace. The greatest problem we foresee: Racism, prejudice and the hate crimes they engender.

There are other problems to conquer in the third millennium – pollution, violence and overpopulation are among the top mentions - and other hopes, led by dreams of further medical advances, such as cures for cancer and AIDS.

Daunting as these may be, much is within our reach, to gauge from the extraordinary list of accomplishments this poll generated. From air conditioning to the atomic bomb, from the printing press to penicillin, from Beethoven to Berry Gordy Jr. and from Christopher Columbus to Bill Gates, Americans cite an eclectic roster of great achievements and great achievers of the past thousand years.

Millennial Hopes and Fears

<u>Greatest hope for the future:</u>		<u>Greatest problem ahead:</u>	
World peace	38%	Racism and prejudice	14%
Medical cures	13	People not getting along	9
People getting along	9	Environmental pollution	8
Greater spirituality	5	Violence	8
Better race relations	4	Overpopulation	7

In an unusual approach for a news poll, this survey consisted almost entirely of open-ended questions: Respondents were asked what and whom they'd pick as the greatest accomplishments and historical figures of the century, and then of the millennium.

THANKS, MOM – The entirety of the resulting lists is at least as fascinating as the top finishers. Suggestions for the greatest inventions of the century include chaos theory, the electric guitar and (from a 69-year-old man in Washington state) the milking machine.

Greatest historical figures include God, Star Trek creator Gene Roddenberry, baseball slugger Mark McGuire, abolitionist Sojourner Truth, one thoroughly immodest "me," and this from another respondent: "I admire my parents. I can't forget what they instilled in me."

HOME TEAM – Broadly, the results have both home-team and recency bias – not surprising, given both the pride most Americans express in their country, and the greater accessibility of familiar names. John F. Kennedy, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Martin Luther King Jr. were most often cited as the greatest figures of the century; Abraham Lincoln and George Washington lead the list as the greatest figures of the millennium. Historians may have different answers, but these are our national heroes.

Greats of the 20th Century

<u>Human accomplishments</u>		<u>Inventions</u>		<u>Historical figures</u>	
Moonwalk/space travel	33%	Computers	30%	John F. Kennedy	11%
Medical advances	11	Automobile	12	Franklin D. Roosevelt	8
Computer technology	8	Electricity	9	Martin Luther King Jr.	7
Flight	3	Television	9	Winston Churchill	5

Greats of the Second Millennium

<u>Human accomplishments</u>		<u>Inventions</u>		<u>Historical figures</u>	
Medical advances	9%	Automobile	19%	Abraham Lincoln	12%
Space travel	8	Electricity	15	George Washington	12
New World discovery	7	Telephone	8	Martin Luther King Jr.	4
Electricity	4	Airplane	7	John F. Kennedy	3

TOP OF THEIR FIELD – Many individual categories have overwhelmingly strong leaders. For the greatest figure in the last thousand years in the field of medicine, 24 percent of Americans name Jonas Salk (Louis Pasteur is second, at 11 percent). In literature, 24 percent name William Shakespeare as the greatest; in sports, 24 percent pick Michael Jordan; in exploration, 21 percent name Christopher Columbus; in science, 29 percent name Albert Einstein; and in the field of business, 33 percent pick Microsoft founder Bill Gates. Given the unlimited range of responses to open-ended questions, these all represent extraordinary levels of agreement.

Several figures, moreover, rank high in multiple categories – both Salk and Pasteur in medicine and science; Shakespeare in literature and entertainment; and millennial great Elvis Presley in the fields of music and entertainment.

Greats in their Field

<u>Medicine</u>		<u>Politics/Government</u>		<u>Literature</u>	
Jonas Salk	24%	John F. Kennedy	13%	Shakespeare	24%
Louis Pasteur	11	Abraham Lincoln	12	Edgar Allen Poe	6
Madame Curie	6	F.D. Roosevelt	7	Ernest Hemingway	5
Alexander Fleming	4	George Washington	6	Mark Twain	3
<u>Science</u>		<u>Religion</u>		<u>Military</u>	
Albert Einstein	29%	John Paul II	16%	Eisenhower	14%
Thomas Edison	4	Billy Graham	14	Colin Powell	11
Louis Pasteur	4	Mother Theresa	12	George Patton	10

Jonas Salk	3	Martin Luther	7	Douglas MacArthur	6
<u>Music</u>		<u>Exploration</u>		<u>Business</u>	
Mozart	15%	Columbus	21%	Bill Gates	33%
Beethoven	12	Lewis and Clark	7	Henry Ford	6
Elvis Presley	8	Jacques Cousteau	7	John D. Rockefeller	6
Bach	5	Neil Armstrong	6	Donald Trump	5
<u>Sports</u>			<u>Entertainment</u>		
Michael Jordan	24%	Bob Hope	8%		
Babe Ruth	9	Frank Sinatra	6		
Muhammad Ali	5	Elvis Presley	6		
Jesse Owens	4	Shakespeare	6		

GROUPS – There are differences among population groups in some of these choices. Men tend to be somewhat more technologically oriented; for instance, 41 percent of men cite space exploration as the greatest accomplishment of the century; fewer women, 26 percent, concur. Women, meanwhile, are twice as apt as men to call John F. Kennedy the century's leading historical figure.

Shakespeare is twice as popular among better-educated Americans; Michael Jordan impresses fewer older people; Dwight Eisenhower has less luster among younger Americans. But in every group, across age, income, education and political lines, the greatest hope for the future is for world peace.

TRIPLE OH – Whatever their millennial hopes, most people in this country are not jumping up and down about the approaching triple-zero: Sixty-one percent say that to them it's "just another new year." Still, a not-insubstantial 38 percent do attach special significance to the year 2000; most of them, by a wide margin, say it's an historical rather than a religious significance.

There will be some extra revelers: While 68 percent normally stay in at home on New Year's Eve, fewer – 54 percent – say they'll probably stay home this year. And while 78 percent say they usually stay up to midnight, 87 percent plan to do so for 2000. Indeed, 26 percent already have done some planning for their New Year's Eve activities.

Women are half again as likely as men to say the year 2000 has a special significance. They're also more likely to plan to spend the holiday at home. Age also is a factor: Most people age 30 and younger say they'll probably go out on New Year's Eve. Most people over 30 say they'll stay in.

Whatever their evening's activities, daytime on Friday, Dec. 31 – a holiday for many working Americans – will find lots of folks at home. Fifty percent say they'll spend the day home; a third, "out and about." (Younger people, again, are much more likely to plan to go out for the day.) Holiday or no, 12 percent figure they'll spend the day at work.

IN THEIR WORDS – A list of all verbatim responses to each question runs nearly 100 pages. For a quicker read, the samplings below offer a snapshot of the range of responses. (It's not a list of most-mentioned items – that's in the tabulated results at the end of this analysis.) Some responses are serious, some global in their outlook; some are irreverent,

some based on personal experience. Together they're no less than a celebration of the vast range of human achievement:

Greatest accomplishments of the century: The moon landing, winning World War II, the Hubble telescope, air travel, the fall of the Berlin Wall, Social Security, "sliced bread," women's suffrage, the spread of Buddhism in the West, "me getting married and having a baby girl."

Greatest inventions of the century: Automobile, computer, call waiting, aspirin, transistors, dialysis machines, dishwashers, antibiotics, nuclear energy, indoor plumbing, the cotton gin, ice makers, Velcro.

Greatest figures of the century: Bill Clinton, Mahatma Gandhi, Adolf Hitler, Albert Einstein, Nelson Mandela, Richard Nixon, Anwar Sadat, Timothy Leary, Golda Meir, Billy Sunday.

Greatest accomplishments of the millennium: Columbus' voyage, air travel, the abolition of slavery, the moon landing, equal rights for women, the polio vaccine, the movable type printing press, creation of the United States, creation of the United Nations, "something Greek," building the Panama Canal, indoor plumbing, "my mom and dad making me."

Greatest inventions of the millennium: The Internet, the steam engine, the light bulb, television, cloning, ice cream, irrigation, the rifle, the Stealth bomber, the VCR.

Greatest figures in medicine: Salk, Pasteur, Curie, Alexander Fleming, Michael DeBakey, Christiaan Barnard, Jack Kevorkian, Joseph Lister, "the dude that invented Viagra."

Greatest figures in politics or government: Kennedy, Lincoln, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Washington, Gandhi, Truman, Karl Marx, Charlemagne, Jesse Jackson, Eric the Red.

Greatest figures in literature: Shakespeare, Mark Twain, Stephen King, Langston Hughes, Aldous Huxley, Danielle Steele, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, J.R.R. Tolkien, Robert Frost, Toni Morrison.

Greatest figures in sports: Michael Jordan, Jim Thorpe, John Elway, Tiger Woods, Babe Didrikson Zaharias, "any Dallas Cowboy," Evel Knievel, Sonny Liston, Steve Prefontaine, "anyone in the Olympics."

Greatest figures in music: Mozart, Elvis Presley, the Beatles, Bob Marley, Glenn Miller, Pearl Jam, Garth Brooks, Luciano Pavarotti, Stevie Wonder, Itzhak Perlman, Eric Clapton, Mahalia Jackson, Richard Wagner, Woody Guthrie.

Greatest figures in exploration: Columbus, Neil Armstrong, John Glenn, Ferdinand Magellan, Edmund Hillary, Marco Polo, William Shackleton, Thor Heyerdahl.

Greatest figures in business: Bill Gates, Lee Iacocca, Alan Greenspan, Warren Buffett, J. Paul Getty, "my dad."

Greatest figures in science: Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison, George Washington Carver, Stephen Hawking, Sigmund Freud, Wernher von Braun.

Greatest figures in religion: Pope John Paul II, Pope Paul I, the Dalai Lama, Joseph Smith, Desmond Tutu, John Wesley, Mary Baker Eddy, Louis Farrakhan, Menachem Schneerson, "no one is greater than the other."

Greatest military figures: Robert E. Lee, Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan, Ulysses S. Grant, the Vietnamese people, William the Conqueror, Fidel Castro, Karl von Clausewitz, George Marshall, "my great, great uncle Benjamin Davis. He's in the encyclopedia" (as the first black general in the U.S. Army).

Greatest figures in entertainment: Lucille Ball, Charlie Chaplin, Stephen Spielberg, Charlton Heston, Berry Gordy, Bing Crosby, Dick Clark, Humphrey Bogart, Denzel Washington, Herb Alpert, Jim Morrison, Monty Python, Walt Disney, "myself."

Greatest remaining problems:

"Religious, ethnic and racial hatred."

"Gun violence."

"Nuclear weapons."

"Lack of respect toward each other."

"World hunger."

"Damage that we have done to our planet."

"Drugs and dope."

"Radical liberals."

"Lack of God."

"Religion, aggression, nationalism."

Greatest hopes for the next millennium:

"A way for humankind to live peacefully, so we could all enjoy this beautiful planet."

"Peace and love."

"Starvation to be done away with."

"Just to get along."

"All religions to get together and settle this thing."

"More people to see God."

"That everybody could touch their big toe to their nose. A lot more people in shape and not overweight."

"Landing on Mars."

"Very strict gun laws."

"Stop punching holes in the ozone."

"More jobs."

"Keep me out of jail."

"Only the best for my kids."

"To relax."

"To live a beautiful life without bombs and wars. To live in peace."

METHODOLOGY - This ABC News poll was conducted by telephone Aug. 16-22, 1999, among a random national sample of 506 adults. The results have a 4.5-point error margin. Field work by TNS Intersearch of Horsham, Pa.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com on the Internet, at:

<http://www.abcnews.com/sections/us/PollVault/PollVault.html>

Here are the results:

1. What do you usually do on New Year's eve - do you usually go out someplace, or stay in at your home?

	Go out	Stay in at home	No opinion
8/22/99	30	68	2

2. And do you usually stay up until midnight or later on New Year's eve, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
8/22/99	78	19	3

3. As you know, the year 2000 is coming. Do you feel that the millennium has any special significance, or do you feel that it's just another new year?

	Special significance	Just another new year	No opinion
8/22/99	38	61	1

4. (Among those who say special significance in Q3:) Is that mainly historical significance, mainly religious, or what?

	Historical	Religious	Both equally (vol.)	No opinion
8/22/99	59	10	23	8

5. Have you done any planning as to what you'll be doing this coming New Year's eve, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
8/22/99	26	74	*

6. Do you think you'll probably go out someplace this coming New Year's eve, or stay in at your home?

	Go out	Stay in at home	No opinion
8/22/99	38	54	8

7. Do you think you'll stay up until midnight or later this coming New Year's eve, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
8/22/99	87	9	4

8. This year, Friday December 31st will be a holiday for many people who work in this country. Just your best guess, how do you think you'll spend most of the day - out and about, or at home?

	Out and about	At home	At work (vol.)	No opinion
8/22/99	32	50	12	6

9. With the year 2000 approaching, we're interested in knowing what people think of when they think about the greatest human accomplishments, anywhere in the world, in the last hundred years, since 1900. What comes to mind when you think about the greatest human accomplishment of the century? Take your time and think about it.

	8/22/99
Moon landing/space travel	33
Advancements in medicine	11
Computer technology	8
Flight/invention of the airplane	3
Civil rights movement	3
Technology	3
Electricity	3
Atomic/nuclear energy/bombs	2
The automobile/car	2
Communication improvements	1
The Berlin Wall coming down	1
Winning/Surviving WWII	1
Women's rights/right to vote	1
Abolishing slavery	1
Learning to accept each other	1
Invention of television	1
Mother Theresa	1
Spiritual-other mentions	2
Industrial-other mentions	1
Miscellaneous	7
No opinion	14

10. Now if you were to think about specific things that have been invented. What would you say is the greatest invention of the century?

	8/22/99
Computers	30
Automobile	12
Electricity	9
Television	9
Telephone/Telecommunications	7
Airplane	4
Medicines/vaccinations	4
Other Technology	3
Space ship/space travel	2
Dishwasher/washing machine	1
Other appliances	1
Microwave	1
Medical technologies/inventions/machines	1
Air conditioning/heat	1
Transistors	1
Indoor plumbing	1
Remote control	1
Radio	1
Miscellaneous	3
No opinion	9

11. Thinking of historical figures worldwide, who would you say is the greatest historical figure of the century?

	8/22/99
John F. Kennedy	11

Franklin D. Roosevelt	8
Martin Luther King	7
Winston Churchill	5
Mother Theresa	5
Gandhi	4
Albert Einstein	4
Abraham Lincoln	3
Bill Clinton	2
Adolf Hitler	2
Ronald Reagan	2
Theodore Roosevelt	2
Princess Diana	1
Neil Armstrong	1
Nelson Mandela	1
Dwight Eisenhower	1
Richard Nixon	1
George Washington	1
Billy Graham	1
Harry Truman	1
Jimmy Carter	1
George Bush	1
Pope John Paul	1
Other-sports figures	1
Other-military figures	1
Other-entertainment figures	1
Other-religious figures	1
Other-political figures	2
Other-inventors	2
Other-presidents	*
Miscellaneous	3
No opinion	23

12. Now let's go back further, thinking of the last one thousand years, from the year 1000 right up to the present time. What comes to mind when you think about the one or two greatest human accomplishments of the millennium?

First mentions:

	8/22/99
Medical advances	9
Space travel/going to the moon	8
Columbus/American discovery/exploration	7
Electricity/electric power	4
Declaration of Independence/American Revolution	4
The automobile	4
Aviation/flight	4
Telephone/telecommunications	3
Inventing the printing press	3
The industrial revolution	2
Christ/spread of Christianity	2
Freeing the slaves	2
Invention of the wheel	1
Computers/computer chip	1
Invention of the engine	1
Television	1
Civil Rights movement/desegregation	1
Education (unspec.)	1
Equal rights for women	1
Renaissance	1
Great Wall of China	1
The Pyramids	1
World trade/commerce	1
Einstein's work	*
Miscellaneous	12
None	*
No opinion	27

13. How about the one or two greatest inventions of the last thousand years?

First mentions:

	8/22/99
Automobile	19
Electricity	15
Telephone	8
Airplane	7
Computers	6
Printing press	6
Combustion engine	5
Television	4
The wheel	3
Medical equipment/technology	2
Penicillin/vaccinations/medicines	1
A-bomb/nuclear energy	1
Gunpowder	1
Radio	1
Space travel/shuttles	*
Microwave	*
Other-appliances	2
Other-transportation	*
Miscellaneous	6
No opinion	10

14. Who do you feel is the greatest figure in the last thousand years, from anywhere in the world, specifically in the field of (item)?

8/22/99

Medicine:

Jonas Salk	24
Louis Pasteur	11
Madame Curie	6
Alexander Fleming	4
Dr. DeBaakey	2
Dr. Christiaan Barnard	1
Albert Schweitzer	1
Charles Drew	1
Other-medicine	12
No opinion	38

Politics or Government:

John F. Kennedy	13
Abraham Lincoln	12
Franklin D. Roosevelt	7
George Washington	6
Thomas Jefferson	5
Bill Clinton	4
Ronald Reagan	4
Winston Churchill	2
Theodore Roosevelt	2
George Bush	2
Gandhi	2
Martin Luther King	1
Harry Truman	1
Napoleon Bonaparte	1
Adolf Hitler	1
Jimmy Carter	1
Richard Nixon	1
Other-politics/government	12
No opinion	22

Literature:

William Shakespeare	24
Edgar Allen Poe	6
Ernest Hemingway	5
Mark Twain	3
Charles Dickens	2

Stephen King	2
John Steinbeck	1
Mayo Angelou	1
Robert Frost	1
Longfellow	1
F. Scott Fitzgerald	1
Chaucer	1
Langston Hughes	1
Other-literature	17
No opinion	35

Sports or Athletics:

Michael Jordan	24
Babe Ruth	9
Muhammad Ali	5
Jesse Owens	4
Jim Thorpe	3
Jackie Robinson	3
Mark McGuire	3
Joe Dimaggio	1
Mickey Mantle	1
Hank Aaron	1
Babe Didrickson Zaharias	1
John Elway	1
Tiger Woods	1
Magic Johnson	1
Lou Gehrig	1
Pete Rose	1
Mark Spitz	1
Wayne Gretzky	1
Florence Griffith Joyner	1
Barry Sanders	1
OJ Simpson	1
Other-sports	17
No opinion	20

Music:

Mozart	15
Beethoven	12
Elvis Presley	8
Bach	5
The Beatles	3
Michael Jackson	3
Frank Sinatra	2
Tchaikovsky	2
Leonard Bernstein	1
Garth Brooks	1
Glenn Miller	1
George Gershwin	1
Jimi Hendrix	1
Alabama	1
Whitney Houston	1
Pavarotti	1
John Lennon	1
Quincy Jones	1
Chopin	1
Stevie Wonder	1
Duke Ellington	1
Other-music	25
No opinion	16

Exploration:

Christopher Columbus	21
Lewis and Clark	7
Jacques Cousteau	7
Neil Armstrong	6
Admiral Byrd	4

John Glenn	3
Ferdinand Magellan	3
Marco Polo	2
Admiral Perry	1
Astronauts (unspec.)	1
Leif Ericsson	1
Ponce de Leon	1
Captain Cook	1
Sir Edmund Hillary	1
Amerigo Vespucci	1
Other-exploration	13
No opinion	29

Business:	
Bill Gates	33
Henry Ford	6
John D. Rockefeller	6
Donald Trump	5
Lee Iacocca	2
Andrew Carnegie	2
Specific Businesses	2
Steve Forbes	1
Adam Smith	1
Warren Buffett	1
Allen Greenspan	1
Ross Perot	1
Howard Hughes	1
Joseph Kennedy	1
Other-business	11
No opinion	27

Science:	
Albert Einstein	29
Thomas Edison	4
Louis Pasteur	4
Jonas Salk	3
Madame Curie	3
Sir Isaac Newton	3
Benjamin Franklin	2
Galileo	2
George Washington Carver	1
Stephen Hawking	1
Charles Darwin	1
Robert Oppenheimer	1
Copernicus	1
Carl Sagan	1
J.D. Watson	1
Alexander Fleming	*
Other-science	9
No opinion	37

Religion:	
Pope John Paul II	16
Billy Graham	14
Mother Theresa	12
Martin Luther	7
Gandhi	6
Jesus Christ	4
Martin Luther King Jr.	3
Dalai Lama	1
God	1
Joseph Smith	1
Popes (unspecified)	1
Mohammad	1
John Paul I	1
Other-Religion	14
No opinion	20

The Military:	
Dwight Eisenhower	14
Colin Powell	11
George S. Patton	10
Douglas MacArthur	6
Napoleon Bonaparte	5
Norman Swartzkopf	5
George Washington	4
Robert E. Lee	2
Adolf Hitler	2
Alexander the Great	1
Abraham Lincoln	1
Oliver North	1
Winston Churchill	1
Other-military	8
No opinion	29

Entertainment:	
Bob Hope	8
Frank Sinatra	6
Elvis Presley	6
William Shakespeare	6
John Wayne	3
Lucille Ball	3
Marilyn Monroe	2
Michael Jackson	2
Jimmy Stewart	1
Bill Cosby	1
George Burns	1
Garth Brooks	1
The Beatles	1
Charlie Chaplin	1
Eddie Murphy	1
Clint Eastwood	1
Al Jolson	1
Johnny Carson	1
Michael Jordan	1
Bette Davis	1
Steven Spielberg	1
Red Skelton	1
Barbara Streisand	1
Sammy Davis Jr.	1
Oprah Winfrey	1
Charlton Heston	1
Other-actors/actresses	9
Other-singers/musical groups	9
Other-entertainment	6
Other-comedians	4
Other-composers	1
Other-directors	1
No opinion	19

15a. If you were to name the one or two greatest historical figures of the last thousand years, from the year 1000 right up to the present time, who would that be?

First mentions:

	8/22/99
Abraham Lincoln	12
George Washington	12
Martin Luther King Jr.	4
John F. Kennedy	3
Adolf Hitler	3
Franklin D. Roosevelt	3
Gandhi	2

Thomas Jefferson	2
Jesus Christ	2
Christopher Columbus	2
Mother Theresa	2
Winston Churchill	2
Napolean	2
Leonardo da Vinci	1
Julius Caesar	1
Thomas Edison	1
Benjamin Franklin	1
Albert Einstein	1
Pope John Paul II	1
Ronald Reagan	1
Sir Isaac Newton	1
Neil Armstrong	1
US presidents (unspec.)	1
Miscellaneous-historical figures	9
World leaders (unspec.)	4
Military (unspec.)	2
Arts (unspec.)	1
No opinion	25

16. Looking ahead, what would you say is your greatest hope for the next millennium - the thing you'd most like to see humankind achieve?

	8/22/99
World peace	38
Cure for cancer/AIDS/other	13
People to get along better with each other	9
People turning to God/Becoming more spiritual	5
Improved race relations	4
To go further in space	4
Reduction in pollution/environmental responsibility	4
Return to family values	3
Elimination of hunger/starvation	2
A decrease in violence	2
Everyone to have a job	2
School/education (unspec.)	1
Miscellaneous-greatest hopes	8
No opinion	4

17. And what do you see as the greatest remaining problem that people will have to deal with in the next millennium?

	8/22/99
Racism/prejudice/hate crimes	14
Learning to get along with each other	9
Pollution/the environment	8
Violence	8
Overpopulation/population growth	7
War	5
Immorality	5
Hunger/food shortage	5
Financial problems	4
Crime	3
Poverty	3
Greed/selfishness	3
Learning how to live in peace	3
Religion/Religious differences	2
The AIDS virus	2
Drugs	2
Discrepancy between rich and poor	2
Diseases (unspec.)	2
The government	1
Health care	1
Y2K and technology	1
Sin	1

None
Miscellaneous-greatest problem
No opinion

*
6
5

END