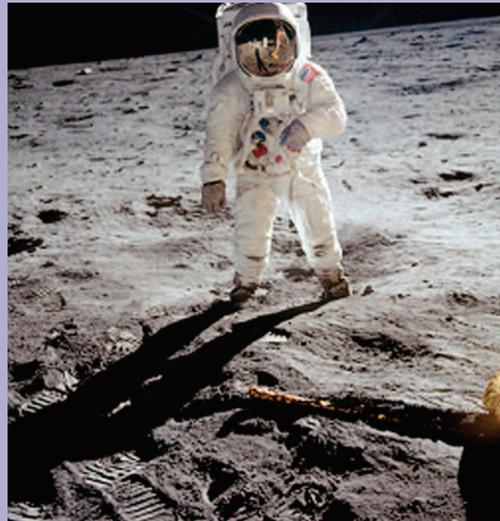


## Segment Three Run Time: 18:29

### Overview

The latter part of the 1960s was a melting pot of exciting firsts and colorful new interests. The Lehigh Valley's own Mario Andretti, one of the greatest racecar drivers of all time, increased interest in the sport dramatically. In addition, in one of the most exciting moments in our nation's history, Apollo 11, carrying three American astronauts, landed on the moon in 1969. As the 60s came to their so-called "end," the consensus throughout the nation seemed to be that the ending meant little; the Beatles stayed popular, space travel continued to expand, and our nation moved closer and closer to being one of equal rights for all.



### Discussion/Questions

1. How has the world changed in the last thirty-five years? In your opinion, what was the best thing about the 1960s? Talk to your parents and grand parents; what are their opinions?
2. What aspects of the decade do you think still exist today, both positive and negative. For example, do you feel like discrimination still exists in your community?

### Activities

1. Divide the class into three groups and assign each group one of the three great people of the decade: John F. Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., or Mario Andretti. As a group, research their character and present it to the class, using a creative project to support the presentation. Discuss as a class after the presentations how the men differ in their lives and goals.
2. Research and describe how either cars or space shuttles have changed in the last forty-five years.

## Spotlight: Mario Andretti

Born in Montona, Italy, racing great Mario Andretti endured a difficult childhood under fascist leader Benito Mussolini. To escape the strict economic and social policies, the Andretti family immigrated to Pennsylvania in 1955. A mere four years later, Mario and his two brothers had found themselves a new passion: racecar driving. In 1967, Mario won his first Daytona 500; two years later, he won his first, and only, Indy 500 race. Andretti's last and 111th career victory was at an Indy race in 1993 in Phoenix – at age fifty-three.



Today, the Andretti family still figures prominently in the Lehigh Valley community. Mario's two sons, Michael and Jeff, have continued their father's racing legacy, and Mario's grandson, Marco, born in 1987, hopes to follow in those footsteps as well. Mario himself, since leaving the racetrack, has devoted his time to being a businessman and spokesperson for his own ventures, as well as those of friends around the world. The Andretti family currently operates three car dealerships, a winery, and an IMAX theatre, as well as a racing school, petroleum business, and an Indoor Karting and Gaming facility, all across the United States.

## More Information

The National Air and Space Museum Smithsonian Institution  
Independence Avenue at 4th Street SW Washington, DC 20560

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Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center 14390 Air and Space Museum Parkway  
Chantilly, VA 20151

## Academic Standards

Living History: The 1960s is specifically designed to address the Academic Standards for History as set forth by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This program supports the successful achievement of standards 8.3 United States History, as defined under grade 12 measurement criteria:

8.3.12: A. Evaluate the political and cultural contributions of individuals and groups to United States history from 1890 to Present

