

falling back to the earth.

As he descended, he discovered a problem with his design. Newer parachutes have a hole at the top to allow the air to escape, but his parachute didn't. Consequently, he swung about violently during his drop. When he finally landed, he was uninjured, but the fall made him feel terribly sick. On his return, he was received as a hero.

Garnerin gained national fame for his scientific achievement. Through his efforts, he proved that the parachute designs he had made actually worked, and for this achievement, France named him its official Aeronaut. However, the importance of his work would not be widely known for more than a century. Until the 1900s, flight simply was not a regular part of life. But as planes and helicopters became common in the 20th century, Garnerin's bold efforts offered a foundation that generations of pilots and parachutists could build on. With improved designs and better materials, such as nylon, each new parachutist's jump owes its success to this great accomplishment more than two hundred years ago.

Leaping from Great Heights

■ The Life of André-Jacques Garnerin

Period	Events
Early Life	Garnerin began studying physics
Adult Life	<input type="text" value="30"/>
	<input type="text" value="31"/>
	<input type="text" value="32"/>
	Garnerin used his parachute for the first time
	<input type="text" value="33"/>



André-Jacques Garnerin

■ An Imperfect Design

- Though Garnerin's original design was successful, newer parachute designs have been improved by and .

■ A Fall to the Earth Causes a Rise to Fame

- Garnerin was the first man to .
- Garnerin's achievement became known in the 20th century .