This issue focuses on “firsts” — discoveries, innovations and actions that changed the world.

Authors and photographers are available for interviews. Photos and video are available.

The First Year
In the incredible learning machine that is a baby’s brain, development depends on loving caretakers.
(by Yudhijit Bhattacharjee, photographs by Lynn Johnson)
*Footage available

The First Artists
Credit them with a pivotal innovation in human history: the invention of symbolic expression.
(by Chip Walter, photographs by Stephen Alvarez)
*Footage available

A First Glimpse of the Hidden Cosmos
As scientists map the universe, what they can’t see — dark energy and dark matter — is key.
(by Timothy Ferris, photographs by Robert Clark)

Africa’s First City
Bursting with a get-rich spirit that has made Nigeria’s economy the African continent’s largest, Lagos is Africa’s first city.
(by Robert Draper, photographs by Robin Hammond)
*Footage available

Tracking the First Americans
Genetic data and new archaeological discoveries offer clues to the mystery of early Americans’ origin.
(by Glenn Hodges)
*Footage available

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