The 1950s

The double helix, the polio vaccine, and the transistor at work.

The structure of DNA was found, polio was beaten, the jet airliner opened the world, and the first satellites went up.

What rose

1953. Watson and Crick, using Rosalind Franklin's data, describe the double helix. Source: DNA

1953. Hillary and Norgay reach the summit of Everest. Source: 1953 British Mount Everest expedition

1955. Jonas Salk's polio vaccine is declared safe and effective. Source: Polio vaccine

1958. The Boeing 707 enters service. The integrated circuit is demonstrated. Source: Boeing 707

What fell or stalled

Large parts of Europe remained under Soviet rule; Hungary's uprising was crushed in 1956. Source: Hungarian Revolution of 1956

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