

GENTLE.NEWS

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*"It is more fun to talk with someone who doesn't use long, difficult words
but rather short, easy words like "What about lunch?"*

— A. A. Milne,

Four Space Explorers Getting Ready for Big Journey

Four brave space explorers are preparing for an exciting trip to the International Space Station. The crew includes two American astronauts, Jessica Meir and Jack Hathaway. They will fly with Sophie Adenot from Europe and Andrey Fedyaev from Russia.

The team will travel in a special SpaceX Dragon spacecraft. A powerful Falcon 9 rocket will lift them into space from Florida. They are scheduled to launch in mid-February.

NASA will hold two special meetings on Friday to talk about the mission. The first meeting starts at 11 in the morning. Mission leaders will share details about their preparations. At 1 in the afternoon, people can meet the four crew members.

This is the last chance to hear from the astronauts before they travel to Florida for launch. The space station crew will conduct important science experiments. They will also help maintain the orbiting laboratory high above Earth.

People can watch both events online through NASA's YouTube channel. This mission shows how countries work together to explore space peacefully.

America's Amazing Wildlife Stars

America is celebrating its 250th birthday! The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is sharing stories about our wonderful animals.

Mountain goats live high in the mountains. They climb steep rocks like expert athletes. Their thick, warm fur keeps them cozy all winter long. Even when snow is deep, they stay active and find food.

Yellow warblers are bright, cheerful birds. They fill our summers with beautiful songs. When winter comes, they fly south to warmer places like Central America.

American bison are huge, strong animals. They have massive heads and thick coats. In winter, they use their powerful heads to push away snow and find grass to eat.

Flying squirrels glide silently through forests at night. They have special fur flaps that help them soar from tree to tree. They look for mushrooms and seeds to eat.

American badgers are amazing diggers. They use strong claws to build underground homes in grasslands. Other animals often move into their old burrows later.

These incredible animals make America special!

African Fashion Designers Win Global Recognition

African fashion is changing the world. For too long, people only knew African clothes as colorful prints and loose robes. But today tells a different story.

Famous stars like Michelle Obama, Rihanna, and Beyoncé now wear clothes made by African designers. These talented creators are winning major fashion prizes. Fashion shows in Dakar and Lagos are setting new trends for everyone to follow.

Ramata Diallo studied fashion business in school. She started the Africa Fashion Tour to share stories about Africa's creative designers. She wants people to know about the amazing work happening across the continent.

African designers make luxury clothes that compete with the world's best fashion houses. They use special fabrics that take many hours to make by hand. Materials like Leppi from Guinea and Kente from Ghana are truly beautiful.

These designers don't copy Western styles. They create their own authentic African fashion. Their success shows that staying true to their culture brings both fame and money. Africa is becoming a leader in fashion that cares about people and the environment.

Scientists Discover Why Some Dogs Have Long Ears

Do you love those adorable floppy ears on basset hounds? Scientists now know why some dogs have long ears while others have short ones.

Researchers at the University of Georgia studied over 3,000 dogs, wolves, and coyotes. They wanted to find out what makes dog ears different sizes.

The team found a special gene called MSRB3. This gene decides if a dog has pointy ears like a German shepherd or droopy ears like a bloodhound. But there's more to the story.

The scientists discovered that dogs with floppy ears have extra genetic differences. These differences control whether the ears are short or long. It's like having two switches - one for floppy versus pointy, and another for short versus long.

Dog ears come in many shapes. Some are called prick ears, drop ears, or button ears. Each type helps dogs in different ways. The research helps us understand our furry friends better.

Soldier's Art Brings Joy to War Memories

William Munro was a talented artist who served in World War II. He was known as "Bud" to his family and friends.

During the war, Bud created over 370 beautiful pieces of art. He made drawings, paintings, and woodcut prints. He even used shoe polish to make some paintings when regular paint wasn't available.

Bud worked as a supply clerk with a medical unit. His job took him to many places including North Africa, Italy, France, and Germany. Even during difficult times, he kept creating art.

Most of his artwork shows the bright side of life. He painted lovely landscapes and lively city scenes. His best works are portraits of his fellow soldiers. These drawings show the friendship between the men.

Bud often sketched while playing card games with his buddies. In a letter to his mother, he wrote that the other soldiers got used to his drawing. They would look over his shoulder and smile when they saw his work.

Today, his art collection is kept at the Library of Congress. It includes more than 300 letters he sent home and all his wonderful artwork. His paintings remind us that people can find beauty and friendship even in hard times.

Activity Time - Word Search

Find the words below in the puzzle. Words go across or down only.

Words to Find:

ANIMALS

SPACE

GOATS

ROCKS

WORLD

CREW

TRIP

