

GENTLE.NEWS

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"but for my own part, if a book is well written, I always find it too short."

— Jane Austen

New Robot Helper Protects Our Water Animals

Scientists have a new underwater robot friend named FIDO. This special robot helps protect fish and other water animals.

FIDO swims in lakes and rivers to look for tiny clues. These clues tell scientists which animals live in the water. The robot can find animals that might be hard to see.

All animals leave behind tiny pieces of themselves in the water. FIDO collects these pieces and studies them. This helps scientists know if new animals are moving into places where they don't belong.

When animals move to new homes, they can sometimes cause problems for the animals already living there. FIDO helps scientists find these new animals quickly.

The robot makes it easier to keep our water animals safe and healthy. Scientists are excited to use FIDO to protect nature.

New Research Shows How Bodies Heal After Surgery

Scientists have made an exciting discovery about how our bodies heal after surgery. They found that our natural healing process works better than we thought.

For years, doctors gave patients medicine to reduce swelling after operations. They believed this would help people feel better faster. But new research shows our bodies might heal better on their own.

Researchers at Michigan State University studied how pain works after surgery. They discovered that swelling is actually part of the healing process. When the body creates swelling, it helps turn off pain signals naturally.

The scientists tested their idea using different methods. Each time, they got the same result. Bodies that were allowed to heal naturally got better faster than those given anti-swelling medicine.

Most people who have surgery recover just fine. About 9 out of 10 patients heal normally. This new research helps doctors understand why some people take longer to feel better. It shows how amazing our bodies are at fixing themselves.

Animals & Wildlife

Amazing Animals Celebrate America's 250th Birthday

America is getting ready for a big birthday party! Our country will be 250 years old soon. To celebrate, wildlife experts are sharing stories about amazing animals that live here.

Every week, they tell us about seven different animals. From tiny hummingbirds to big fish, America is home to wonderful creatures.

The black crappie is a fish that many people like to catch. Right now, these fish are getting ready to have babies. They swim to shallow water where it's warmer.

American red squirrels are busy little animals. They live in forests and collect pinecones all year long. When snow gets deep, they dig tunnels through it! These clever squirrels never sleep through winter.

Ruby-throated hummingbirds are amazing tiny birds. Even though they're only 3 to 4 inches long, they fly over 2,000 miles! They spend winter in warm places and summer in America. The blue catfish is the biggest catfish in North America. Some of these fish weigh over 100 pounds! They have beautiful blue-gray skin and live in big rivers. These animals make America special. Each one has its own story to tell.

Hawaii Volcano Creates Amazing Natural Show

A volcano in Hawaii put on quite a show last week. Kilauea volcano shot beautiful fountains of lava high into the sky.

The lava fountains reached almost 1,500 feet tall. That's taller than most skyscrapers! Light winds carried small pieces of cooled lava across the island.

These lava pieces are called tephra. Some looked like thin glass threads called Pele's hair. Others were bigger chunks about the size of footballs.

The tephra fell gently on roads, grass, and trees. It covered some areas like a blanket of volcanic confetti. Many pieces got caught in tree branches and ferns.

People in nearby towns saw the tephra falling like unusual snow. Scientists study these events to learn more about how volcanoes work. It was a rare chance to see nature's power up close.

Mars Rover Uses Smart Computer to Find Its Way

NASA's Mars rover got some exciting new help finding its way around the red planet. The rover, called Perseverance, used smart computer technology to plan its own route.

On December 10th, the rover drove 807 feet across the Martian surface. A special computer program helped figure out the best path to take. This was only the second time scientists tried this new way of helping the rover move around.

The smart computer suggested one route, shown in pink on NASA's map. The rover ended up taking a slightly different orange path. Both routes worked well and kept the rover safe.

Scientists on Earth usually help plan where the rover should go. Now the rover can help make these decisions too. This makes exploring Mars faster and easier.

The rover has been working on Mars for over 1,700 days. It keeps sending amazing pictures and information back to Earth. This new smart technology will help it explore even more of Mars in the future.

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

RIVERS

BODIES

ROBOT

WATER

LAKES

FISH

HEAL

