

GENTLE.NEWS

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"You are imperfect, permanently and inevitably flawed. And you are beautiful."

— Amy Bloom

Space Telescope Sees Amazing Comet Breaking Apart

Scientists got a wonderful surprise while watching the night sky. NASA's Hubble Space Telescope saw something very special happen. A comet was breaking apart right before their eyes!

This was not what the scientists planned to see. They were trying to look at a different comet. But that comet could not be seen because of some problems. So they picked a new comet to study instead.

What happened next was amazing. The new comet started breaking into pieces while Hubble was watching. This almost never happens. One scientist said it was like winning the lottery twice!

The comet has a long name - C/2025 K1. Scientists call it K1 for short. As it broke apart, Hubble took beautiful pictures of all the pieces floating through space.

Scientists say the best discoveries sometimes happen by accident. This lucky find will help them learn more about comets. It shows how wonderful surprises can happen when we explore space.

Scientists Use Smart Computers to Study Tiny Molecules

Scientists have created a smart computer program that can solve an amazing puzzle. The program helps them understand how tiny molecules are built.

Here's how it works. Scientists use special X-ray beams to break apart molecules. When the molecules break, their pieces fly in different directions. The smart computer watches how the pieces move.

Then the computer does something remarkable. It works backward like a detective. It uses clues from the flying pieces to figure out what the whole molecule looked like before it broke apart.

This new method is much faster than old ways of studying molecules. The computer can solve these puzzles in seconds instead of hours. Scientists tested it on many different molecules and it worked very well.

This discovery could help create better medicines. It might also help make new materials for everyday items. The scientists are excited because they can now study molecules that are floating freely in space. The research team published their findings in a science magazine. They hope to use this method on bigger and more complex molecules soon.

Scientists Find Better Ways to Test New Medicines

Scientists have found new ways to test medicines without using animals. The Food and Drug Administration wants to help companies use these better methods.

For many years, scientists tested new medicines on animals first. This was done to make sure the medicines were safe for people. But animal testing does not always show how a medicine will work in humans.

Now scientists have created new testing methods. These new ways are more like testing on human cells and tissues. This gives better information about how medicines will help people.

The new testing methods can help bring good medicines to patients faster. They are also more accurate than the old animal tests. Scientists are excited about these improvements.

This change will help both animals and people. Animals will not need to be used for testing as much. People will get safer medicines that work better. This is good news for everyone who needs new treatments.

Nature & Environment

Ocean Waters Stay Healthy Along West Coast

Good news comes from the ocean waters along America's West Coast. Scientists who study the sea say the water stayed healthy in 2025.

Cold water from deep in the ocean rose to the surface. This cold water brought lots of food for sea creatures. The movement of this water also kept very warm water farther from shore.

Many sea animals did well in these good conditions. Baby salmon grew strong in the rich waters. Young fish called rockfish also thrived. Small shrimp-like creatures called krill were found in large numbers up and down the coast.

These tiny krill are very important. When there are lots of krill, it means the ocean is healthy. Many larger animals like salmon, squid, and seabirds eat krill. So when krill do well, other sea creatures do well too.

Scientists use new tools to watch the ocean. They work with fishing boats to learn about sea life. This helps them take better care of our oceans for the future.

Scientist Wins Award for Teaching Young Researchers

A scientist at Oak Ridge National Laboratory has won a special award for being an excellent teacher. Leah Broussard works with tiny particles called neutrons to learn about our universe.

The Department of Energy gave her the Distinguished Mentor Award. This new award honors scientists who guide and teach young researchers. Broussard was one of only four people in the whole country to receive this honor.

She has taught thirteen young scientists over the years. Some were college students doing summer internships. Others were graduate students working on advanced degrees. Many of her former students now have important jobs in science and industry.

Broussard studies neutrons to understand how the universe works. She wants to learn why there is so little antimatter in space. She also researches dark matter, which is invisible but everywhere in the universe.

The award praised her for inspiring the next generation of scientists. Her students are now doing important neutron research that helps advance our understanding of physics. Teaching young people keeps science growing and moving forward.

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

SCIENCE

SCIENCE

MENTOR

OCEAN

COMET

SPACE

KRILL

