

GENTLE.NEWS

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"Time is a drug. Too much of it kills you."

— Terry Pratchett

Technology & Innovation

NASA Helps Company Make Moon Tools

NASA is helping a company build special tools for the Moon. These tools will help astronauts find useful things on the Moon's surface.

The company is called Interlune. They live in Seattle. NASA gave them \$6.9 million to make these Moon tools. The tools will look for water and gases in Moon dirt.

Right now, astronauts have to bring everything from Earth. That costs a lot of money. These new tools will help astronauts use what they find on the Moon instead.

The tools work like a special vacuum cleaner. They pick up Moon dirt and sort it by size. Then they find hidden gases inside. A computer measures how much gas they find.

This is very exciting for space travel. Someday astronauts might live on the Moon for months. They could use Moon water to drink. They could use Moon gases to power their rockets. This makes space travel easier and safer for everyone.

Space Telescope Finds New Worlds Around Twin Stars

NASA's space telescope has made an exciting discovery. It found more than 20 new planets orbiting around pairs of stars.

The telescope is called TESS. It watches the sky for new worlds beyond our solar system. So far, it has found 885 confirmed planets and nearly 8,000 possible ones.

TESS usually finds planets when they pass in front of their stars. This blocks some starlight for a short time. But finding planets around twin stars is much harder.

Scientists developed a clever new method. They watch twin stars that eclipse each other. When a planet's gravity tugs on the stars, it changes the timing of these eclipses slightly.

This discovery opens up new possibilities for finding planets. Many stars in space actually come in pairs. Now we have a better way to search for worlds around these stellar twins. Each new planet helps us understand how solar systems form throughout the universe.

Nature & Environment

Amazing Volcanoes Create Beautiful Natural Wonders

In El Salvador, a special place called Ahuachapán shows off nature's amazing power. This area has volcanoes that create beautiful sights.

The tallest volcano is Santa Ana. It reaches high into the sky at over 7,800 feet tall. At the top sits a pretty crater lake with bright blue-green water.

Long ago, another volcano started growing nearby. People called it Izalco. For many years, it put on light shows with glowing lava. Sailors could see its bright glow from far out at sea. They nicknamed it the "Lighthouse of the Pacific."

The heat from deep underground does wonderful things here. It creates natural hot springs where people can relax. The earth's warmth also makes clean energy to power homes and businesses.

These volcanoes are part of a long chain that stretches for hundreds of miles. They show us how the earth is always creating new and beautiful things.

Animals & Wildlife

Learning About Dolphins and Porpoises

Dolphins and porpoises are amazing sea animals. They are both very smart creatures that live in the ocean. These animals are part of the whale family too.

Both dolphins and porpoises breathe air like we do. They must swim to the surface to take breaths. They also use special sounds to find food and talk to each other.

You can tell dolphins and porpoises apart by looking at them. Dolphins have longer bodies and curved back fins. They have long noses that look like beaks. Dolphins love to chat with clicks and whistles.

Porpoises are smaller and rounder than dolphins. They have triangle-shaped back fins. Their noses are short and rounded. Porpoises are very quiet and shy animals.

Dolphins are friendly and curious about people and boats. Porpoises prefer to stay away from humans. Both animals are wonderful to watch from a safe distance in their ocean home.

Scientists Create New Helpful Proteins

Scientists have found an exciting new way to make proteins. Proteins are tiny parts that help our bodies work well.

A team of researchers used special bright lights called X-rays. These powerful lights helped them see how proteins work. The scientists studied one protein very carefully. Then they made two brand new proteins from it.

One of the new proteins works better than any protein scientists have made before. This is a big success! The new method is much faster than old ways of making proteins.

These new proteins could help make better medicines. They might also help factories make things in cleaner ways. The scientists are very excited about what they discovered.

This breakthrough could make it easier to create helpful proteins in the future. The work shows how modern science keeps finding new ways to help people. Scientists around the world are interested in this discovery.

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

MEDICINE

VOLCANO

SCIENCE

TOOLS

SPACE

MOON

LAKE

