

# GENTLE.NEWS

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*"There are years that ask questions and years that answer."*

— Zora Neale Hurston

### **Student Uses Computers to Teach Robots New Skills**

A bright young student named Jasmin Lin is doing amazing work with robots and computers. She studies at a science lab where she teaches robots how to move and learn.

Jasmin started by studying plants and animals in college. But then she discovered something exciting - she could use computers to help robots become smarter. This opened up a whole new world for her.

At the science lab, Jasmin works with special computer programs. These programs help robots learn new tasks, just like how people learn. The robots can practice movements and get better over time.

Jasmin also created a virtual reality system. This lets scientists see plants in a computer world that looks very real. They can study how plants grow without leaving their office.

Her work shows how young people can discover new interests. Jasmin started with biology but found her passion in robotics. She hopes other students will explore different subjects too.

## **Animals & Wildlife**

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### **Fish Travel Amazing Distances to Find Home**

Every year, millions of fish take incredible journeys. Salmon, trout, and other fish swim thousands of miles through oceans and rivers. They are trying to reach the same places where they were born.

These amazing fish return home to have their babies. Some swim from the ocean all the way up rivers to mountain streams. It's like a long family reunion that happens every year.

Scientists are working hard to help these traveling fish. They remove old dams and barriers that block the fish's path home. When a barrier is removed, fish can swim freely again.

In California, workers just opened a creek that was blocked for 50 years. Now salmon and trout can reach their old homes again. In Idaho and Washington, other projects are helping fish travel safely.

These efforts mean more fish can complete their amazing journeys. Fish families can return to the same special places their parents and grandparents called home. It's wonderful to see nature working as it should.

### **Scientists Learn How Earth Got Elements for Life**

Scientists have made an exciting discovery about our planet Earth. They found new clues about how Earth got the special ingredients needed for life to begin.

Long ago, more than 4 billion years ago, our solar system was very different. The Sun was young and surrounded by clouds of gas and dust. This cosmic dust contained important elements that would later become part of Earth.

Two elements are especially important for all living things. These are nitrogen and phosphorus. Every plant, animal, and person on Earth needs these elements to live and grow.

The scientists studied rocks from space called meteorites. These space rocks fell to Earth long ago. By looking at these ancient rocks, scientists can learn what happened when our solar system was forming.

The research shows that Earth got most of its life-giving elements from nearby space, close to the Sun. This discovery helps us understand how our beautiful planet became the perfect home for life.

### Hawaii's Trees Lost Their Leaves Near Volcano

Something unusual happened near Hawaii's Kilauea volcano. The trees lost most of their leaves! This created a "stick season" look.

In cold places like the Northeast United States, trees lose leaves every fall. People call this "stick season" because bare trees look like sticks. But in Hawaii, trees usually keep their leaves all year long.

So why did this happen? Kilauea volcano has been erupting since December 2024. The eruption creates amazing lava fountains that shoot high into the sky. It also makes clouds of volcanic gas and ash.

Usually, trade winds blow these volcanic clouds away from the park areas. But during winter months, the winds changed direction. Special storms called "Kona winds" blew the volcanic clouds toward the trees instead.

The volcanic gases in these clouds affected the plants. That's why the leaves fell off the trees near the volcano. Nature always finds ways to surprise us, even in tropical Hawaii!

### **Spanish Region Celebrates Its Special Language and Music**

Every May, a beautiful region in Spain has a wonderful celebration. The area is called Galicia. It sits in the northwest part of Spain.

On this special day, people honor their own language. They also celebrate their music and stories. About three million people speak this language called Galician.

This year, the celebration honored women folk singers from long ago. These talented ladies sang traditional songs. They played small drums called tambourines while they sang.

The Galician language connects people to their land. It helps families pass down stories from parents to children. Many beautiful poems and books are written in this language.

People who moved away from Galicia still speak their language. They share their music and stories with people around the world. This keeps their culture alive in many countries.

## Activity Time - Word Search

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

### Words to Find:

STORIES

LEAVES

EARTH

MUSIC

SPACE

TREES

HOME

