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"I wasn't actually in love, but I felt a sort of tender curiosity."

— F. Scott Fitzgerald

Partners, NASA Ready for June Launch of Swift Boost Mission

5 min read Partners, NASA Ready for June Launch of Swift Boost Mission NASA is on a mission to lift its Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory along with partners Katalyst Space and Northrop Grumman. Watch to get a sneak peek. Credit: NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center/Katalyst Space/Northrop Grumman A mission to raise the orbit of NASA's Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory is poised for launch no earlier than Tuesday, June 30, 6:23 a.m. EDT (10:23 p.m. UTC+12), from Kwajalein Atoll, part of the Republic of the Marshall Islands in the South Pacific Ocean. A robotic servicing satellite called LINK, built by Katalyst Space, will blast into orbit on a Northrop Grumman Pegasus XL rocket . LINK will rendezvous with, grapple, and slowly raise Swift's altitude over several months, preventing it from re-entering Earth's atmosphere later this year. "Swift is NASA's multitool when it comes to studying the cosmos," said S. Bradley Cenko, principal investigator, Swift , NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. "It observes the sky using a wide range of light and rapidly points at short-lived outbursts, alerting other facilities in space and on the ground to help coordinate follow-up observations. For the last two decades, Swift has been a key player in NASA's efforts to understand how the universe works, and we're looking forward to getting back to that work after the boost is complete." This mosaic of M31 merges 330 individual images taken by the Ultraviolet/Optical Telescope aboard

Swift. It is the highest-resolution image of the galaxy ever recorded in the ultraviolet. The image shows a region 200,000 light-years wide and 100,000 light-years high. NASA/Swift/Stefan Immler (GSFC) and Erin Grand (UMCP) Download high-resolution images and videos related to Swift through NASA's Scientific Visualization Studio. Our planet's atmosphere creates drag on all spacecraft in low Earth orbit, gradually reducing their altitudes if they don't have propulsion systems to counteract the effect. A recent bout of increased solar activity magnified this impact on Swift, which launched in November 2004. Rather than allowing Swift to re-enter the atmosphere as many missions do, NASA is using the opportunity to advance the U.S. commercial satellite servicing industry. In September, the agency contracted Katalyst to attempt to boost the observatory. The company would have less than one year to design, build, test, and launch a satellite to meet, grab, and lift Swift to nearly its original orbit. "Swift wasn't designed to be serviced," said Ghonhee Lee, CEO of Katalyst. "By demonstrating we can quickly and cost-effectively extend its lifetime, we're creating a blueprint for servicing spacecraft that were never designed for on-orbit maintenance. If we're going to build an enduring presence beyond Earth, we need the capability to manipulate our environment in space. That means deploying robotic spacecraft that can reposition, repair, refuel, and refit satellites after launch." Katalyst engineers attach LINK to a baseplate inside the Space Environment Simulator at NASA Goddard on Tuesday, April 28, 2026. Once all the air was pumped out of the 27-foot-diameter chamber, the team practiced firing the

satellite's ion thrusters and operated one of the robotic arms while they cycled through space-like hot and cold temperatures. NASA/Sophia Roberts The LINK spacecraft weighs about 880 pounds and stands about 5 feet tall, about a third of Swift's overall size. Nearly 20 feet of solar panels will power three ion thrusters and a trio of robotic arms. LINK completed environmental testing that mimicked launch and space-like conditions at NASA Goddard this spring, as well as additional preflight assessments at Katalyst's facility in Broomfield, Colorado. For the boost to have its best chance of success, Swift needs to stay above an altitude of about 185 miles. By the end of last year, however, orbital predictions generated by NASA showed the observatory reaching that threshold as early as July. To slow Swift's descent, the operations team at Penn State's Eberly College of Science altered how they managed and oriented the spacecraft. Unlike during normal operating procedures, where Swift looks at spots on the sky that are scientifically interesting, the team now selects targets that steer Swift into the most streamlined position. They also reduced power consumption as much as possible to place the satellite's large solar panels in a more aerodynamic orientation. Recent orbital predictions show these changes will keep Swift above critical altitude until this fall. Stargazer, Pegasus XL, and LINK await takeoff on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia. Engineers control the temperature and humidity inside the nose cone of the rocket to keep the satellite and avionics safe from weather and changing environmental conditions during flight. NASA/Ron Beard The satellite will launch

aboard the Pegasus XL. “We can deploy Pegasus from almost anywhere in the world using our Stargazer , a modified L-1011 aircraft,” said Wes Collier, vice president of launch systems at Northrop Grumman. “That combination of flexibility and responsive access to space will help LINK quickly reach Swift, giving the teams time to complete the boost.” Earlier this month, engineers loaded LINK into the Pegasus XL and attached the rocket to Stargazer at NASA’s Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia. The aircraft and its payload departed for Kwajalein Atoll on Thursday, June 18, where it now awaits launch. Once in orbit, LINK will undergo several weeks of commissioning as Katalyst evaluates the spacecraft’s propulsion, navigation, and sensor systems. It then will slowly approach and survey Swift before grabbing the observatory with its robotic arms and slowly raising the orbit to nearly 370 miles. “This is a high-risk, high-reward mission,” said Shawn Domagal-Goldman, division director, Astrophysics, NASA Headquarters in Washington. “Swift plays a notable role in our fleet. We have much to gain by attempting this boost, which is more affordable than trying to replace Swift’s capabilities and allows NASA to advance the nation’s satellite servicing industry, for the benefit of all.” Learn more about the Swift boost at: <https://science.nasa.gov/mission/swift/swift-boost-mission/> By Jeanette Kazmierczak Goddard Space Flight Center , Greenbelt, Md. Media contacts: Alise Fisher Headquarters , Washington 202-358-2546 Claire Andreoli Goddard Space Flight Center , Greenbelt, Md. 301-286-1940 Facebook logo @NASAUniverse @NASAUniverse Instagram logo @NASAUniverse Share Details Last Updated

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New Federal Duck Stamp Goes on Sale, Supporting Wetland Conservation Across America

Press Release New Federal Duck Stamp Goes on Sale, Supporting Wetland Conservation Across America Jun 26, 2026 Media Contacts FWS Press Hunters, bird watchers, stamp collectors, and artists celebrated as the 2026-2027 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp – commonly known as the Duck Stamp – went on sale. The new Federal Duck Stamp and its younger sibling, the Junior Duck Stamp, debuted today at a special event hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Bass Pro Shops in St. Augustine, Florida. “I am pleased to be among the first to purchase the 2026-2027 Federal and Junior Duck Stamps,” said Service Director Brian Nesvik . “For generations, waterfowl hunters have been instrumental in protecting vast stretches of wetlands, including on national wildlife refuges. These areas offer outdoor recreational opportunities, support migratory waterfowl, including thousands of ducks and geese, provide habitat for numerous other wildlife species, help manage flooding and strengthen the economies of rural communities.” The Federal Duck Stamp plays a critically important role in wildlife conservation. Since 1934, sales of this stamp have raised more than \$1.3 billion to conserve over 6 million acres of wetlands habitat on national wildlife refuges around the nation. Painted by James Hautman of Chaska, Minnesota , the new Federal Duck Stamp will raise millions of dollars for

habitat conservation which benefits wildlife and the American people. The three buffleheads featured on the new stamp is Hautman's seventh Federal Duck Stamp designed for the U.S. Department of the Interior. His artwork was chosen in September 2025 from 290 entries in the country's only federally regulated art contest. The 2026-2027 Junior Duck Stamp, which also went on sale today, raises funds to support youth conservation education. This year's stamp features a pair of blue-winged teal painted by 17-year-old Nina Liang from Texas . "Hunters have always been key partners in conservation, and the Federal Duck Stamp is just one of the many ways they support the protection of our nation's waterfowl and wetlands," said Service Assistant Director for the Migratory Bird Program, Jerome Ford . "Every stamp you buy directly invests in conserving millions of acres of scenic American landscapes that are essential for waterfowl and countless other species. These contributions help ensure that future generations can experience thriving bird populations." A current Federal Duck Stamp is good for free admission to any national wildlife refuge national wildlife refuge A national wildlife refuge is typically a contiguous area of land and water managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the conservation and, where appropriate, restoration of fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitats for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans. Learn more about national wildlife refuge that charges an entry fee. Of the 573 refuges, most offer unparalleled outdoor recreational opportunities, including hunting, fishing, bird watching and photography. Waterfowl aren't the only species

that benefit from wetland habitat conservation. Countless shorebirds, herons, raptors and songbirds, along with mammals, fish, native plants, reptiles and amphibians rely on the same habitats. Many migratory species, including Birds of Conservation Concern, such as the yellow rail, black tern and prothonotary warbler, depend on wetlands and nearby uplands for feeding, breeding, migrating, wintering and resting. This year's Federal Duck Stamp companion species artwork features the northern flicker. This is a nod to the unique relationship between buffleheads and the tree cavities they nest in, cavities that northern flickers often create. The new duck stamps will be sold at sporting goods and retail stores, some post offices and national wildlife refuges, and are available for purchase online. The Service is also offering the 2026-2027 Federal Electronic Duck Stamp (E-Stamp) for purchase through many state agency websites as well as through duckstamp.com. Funds raised from the sale of Federal Duck Stamps go toward the acquisition and lease of habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Duck Stamps – while required for waterfowl hunters as part of their annual license – are also voluntarily purchased by birders, outdoor enthusiasts and fans of national wildlife refuges who understand the value of conserving some of the most diverse and important wildlife habitats in our nation. Stamp and wildlife art collectors also value these miniature pieces of art and American history and contribute to conservation through their purchases of duck stamps. The Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest is the culmination of a year-long educational program that encourages students to learn about wetlands and

waterfowl conservation, explore their natural world and create a painting or drawing of a duck, goose or swan as their “visual term paper” to demonstrate what they learned. Approximately 15,000 students in K-12 th grades annually participate in the art contest. The winning artwork at the Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest is made into a stamp the Service sells for \$5 to conservationists, educators, students, collectors and the public. Proceeds support conservation education at the state and local level. Since the first Junior Duck Stamps went on sale in 1993, well over \$1.4 million has been raised, which is re-invested in this unique conservation arts and science education program across the country. The 2026 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest to select the 2027-2028 Federal Duck Stamp will be held September 24-25, 2026, at Ducks Unlimited, Inc. Headquarters in Memphis, Tennessee. Learn more about the Federal and Junior Duck Stamps. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information, visit www.fws.gov , or connect with us through any of these social media channels: Facebook , Instagram , X , LinkedIn , YouTube and Flickr . - FWS- Story Tags Art Hunting Recreational Activities Hunting Wildlife watching Press Release Published Jun 26, 2026 Recreation Media Contacts FWS Press Latest Press Releases Science and Technology Interior Announces New Partnership to Advance Conservation of Imperiled Species Through Biobanking and Genomic Science Jun 25, 2026 Wildlife Management Service Establishes Faster, Smarter Framework for Migrat-

ory Game Bird Hunting Seasons Jun 25, 2026 Wildlife Management
Service Modernizes Shellfish Definition, Reduces Regulatory Ambiguity
Jun 24, 2026

Can the body's internal clock help boost stroke recovery?

A new study suggests that reinforcing the body's natural daily rhythms to improve sleep could help the brain recover after a stroke. The work points to a potential new strategy to improve brain waste clearance and outcomes long after the initial injury. The research in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation* found that interventions designed to reinforce the body's natural circadian rhythms improved recovery in mouse models of stroke. The benefits were accompanied by improvements in the glymphatic system—the brain's waste-clearing network—and reductions in inflammatory molecules that can linger in the brain after a stroke. The findings build upon more than a decade of pioneering research led by University of Rochester Medicine neuroscientist Maiken Nedergaard, whose laboratory discovered the glymphatic system in 2012. The system circulates cerebrospinal fluid through the brain, helping clear waste products and other debris. Subsequent research revealed that glymphatic activity is most robust during sleep and plays an important role in maintaining brain health. Building on that discovery, neuroscientist Lauren Hablitz helped demonstrate that glymphatic activity is governed not only by sleep but also by circadian rhythms—the body's internal 24-hour clock. In a landmark 2020 study, Hablitz, Nedergaard, and colleagues showed that glymphatic function follows daily rhythms independent of sleep itself, helping establish a direct connection between the brain's waste-clearing

system and circadian biology. “The discussion of stroke recovery really starts with the idea that stroke is not just a vascular event, but also a disorder of timing,” says Hablitz, lead author of the new study. Researchers have long known that strokes follow predictable time-of-day patterns. They are more likely to occur in the morning hours and are often more severe near the end of the sleep period. At the same time, many stroke patients experience disrupted sleep-wake cycles after their injury, and those disruptions are associated with poorer recovery, depression, and lower quality of life. “That led us to ask a simple question,” says Hablitz. “If timing is broken after a stroke, can we improve recovery by reinforcing the biological clock?” Under healthy conditions, the glymphatic system moves cerebrospinal fluid along blood vessels and through brain tissue, delivering nutrients and helping remove waste products and inflammatory signals. Previous studies showed that glymphatic function becomes impaired after stroke, potentially limiting the brain’s ability to clear harmful molecules that accumulate during recovery. Traditionally, stroke researchers have focused on distinguishing beneficial inflammation from harmful inflammation and finding ways to suppress the latter. Hablitz and her colleagues propose that impaired clearance may be part of the problem. “We think part of the problem may be a failure of cleaning,” she says. “If the system responsible for clearing signaling molecules isn’t working properly, everything builds up.” In this model, stroke damages not only brain tissue but also the pathways that normally help clear inflammatory signals. As those molecules accumulate, they may contribute

to ongoing injury and impaired recovery. To test whether restoring circadian rhythms could improve recovery, the researchers evaluated several interventions known to influence the body's internal clock, including timed light exposure, melatonin, a clock-targeting drug called KL001, and time-restricted feeding. The team first demonstrated that each intervention could enhance glymphatic function in healthy animals. They then tested the most promising approaches—KL001 and time-restricted feeding—in mouse models of stroke. Importantly, treatment began three days after stroke, well beyond the narrow treatment window for clot-busting drugs and other acute interventions. Despite the delay, the animals receiving either intervention showed improved motor recovery, smaller lesion volumes, enhanced glymphatic flow, and lower levels of inflammatory cytokines in the brain. “All of the cytokines moved in the same direction,” Hablitz says. “That suggests we may not be targeting one specific inflammatory pathway. Instead, we may be helping the brain clear inflammatory signals more effectively.” Because the most promising intervention involved time-restricted feeding—a behavioral approach already being studied for obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and other conditions—the findings could have practical implications for stroke rehabilitation. “One of the exciting aspects of this work is that we’re studying interventions that could potentially be implemented not only in hospitals but also at home,” Hablitz says. The researchers caution that the findings are currently limited to animal models and that more work is needed to understand exactly how circadian rhythms, glymphatic function,

and inflammation interact after stroke. Future studies will seek to determine whether improved glymphatic flow directly drives recovery and whether circadian-based interventions can be translated into clinical trials. More broadly, the work reflects a growing shift in neuroscience that views sleep, circadian rhythms, and fluid transport as fundamental drivers of brain health. By uncovering how the brain's internal clock influences the glymphatic system, researchers hope to identify new ways to enhance recovery not only after stroke, but also in other neurological disorders marked by inflammation and impaired waste clearance. "Understanding how circadian regulation shapes glymphatic clearance will help us develop more targeted therapies," says Hablitz. "Ultimately, our goal is to find ways to improve the brain's ability to clear waste, reduce inflammation, and recover after injury." Source: University of Rochester The post Can the body's internal clock help boost stroke recovery? appeared first on Futurity .

Celebrating America's 250th Grant Spotlight: New West Symphony

Celebrating America's 250th Grant Spotlight: New West Symphony Date Fri, 06/26/2026 - 12:00 Carolyn Coons Fri, 06/26/2026 - 16:28 Author Carolyn Coons reagan.jpg State California Body Aerial view of the Ronald Reagan Library in Simi Valley, California. Photo courtesy of the Ronald Reagan Library "The arts lie at the heart of our Nation and of the heritage we cherish. The freedom we enjoy allows our arts to breathe the spirit of liberty and to ennoble, inspire, and nourish us." —President Ronald Reagan, National Arts Week Proclamation, November 12, 1987 The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library has long been a valued neighbor to New West Symphony, located just eight miles away in Thousand Oaks, California. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the library opened its Air Force One Pavilion to the symphony, providing a safe space for rehearsals and recorded performances. The arrangement allowed musicians and staff to continue sharing their art with the community during a period of unprecedented disruption. "Spending that much time in the museum made me aware of the president's interest in the arts generally and the many events that he and the first lady held at the White House," said Michael Christie, New West Symphony's artistic and music director. That initial act of generosity helped inspire a new collaboration: A Ronald Reagan Portrait . This symphonic work explores President Reagan's life and career through the music that shaped him, weaving together orchestral perform-

ance with photographs, film clips, recordings, and excerpts from some of his most memorable speeches. The multimedia production celebrates Reagan's place in American history while offering audiences a different perspective on his life story. It will premiere at the library this weekend, Saturday, June 27th as part of an America250 celebration. The project received support from the National Endowment for the Arts through the grant program Celebrating America250: Arts Projects Honoring the National Garden of American Heroes . To commemorate America's semiquincentennial, the Arts Endowment awarded 50 grants to support arts projects across the country that celebrate one or more of the national heroes recognized in Executive Order 13978, "Building the National Garden of American Heroes." President Ronald Reagan Presenting The National Medal of Arts to Ella Fitzgerald at a Luncheon in East Room Although the idea of expanding the partnership with the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library had been percolating in Christie's mind since the pandemic-era collaboration, the initial spark for the project came with a piece of music. He heard The King's Row Suite by Erich Korngold—a work which is most recognizable because of its influence on composer John Williams and Star Wars' iconic theme. Christie soon learned that King's Row , the film for which Korngold wrote the original music, was also Reagan's breakout film role. "It suddenly connected music, Hollywood, and Reagan's story in a way that really stuck with me," Christie said. A Ronald Reagan Portrait features music from Reagan's films alongside pieces associated with his personal tastes and pivotal moments

in his life. For example, *California, Here I Come* accompanies the story of Reagan's successful campaign for governor, helping to trace his evolution from Hollywood star to political leader. Recordings of Reagan's speeches and excerpts from his autobiography accompany photographs and video drawn from the extensive collections of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and the National Archives. The project also brought together a range of collaborators, including photo historian Joe Sohm, whose sweeping aerial drone footage provides a broader visual context for the more intimate moments of Reagan's story. As Christie delved into Reagan's life, he made some unexpected discoveries. One of the most memorable had little to do with Reagan's careers in politics or entertainment—it was a love letter he wrote to his wife, First Lady Nancy Reagan. Christie considered the letter so illuminating that it became the emotional centerpiece of the production. In the letter, Reagan reflects on the many women he loves, revealing at the end that each one is Nancy. The letter was later read by former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, an ally of the president, at Nancy Reagan's memorial service. President Ronald Reagan and Nancy Reagan Breaking Ground for The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum

Fortunately, all these women in my life are you - fortunately for me that is, for there could be no life for me without you. Browning asked; "How do I love thee - let me count the ways?" For me there is no way to count. I love the whole gang of you - Mommie, first lady, the sentimental you, the fun you, and the peewee power house you. Christie was struck by the person behind the presidency—gaining a deeper

appreciation for the ways in which even the nation's highest office is shaped by the same challenges, decisions, and dreams that define any individual life. "One thing that stood out to me was how Reagan seemed to approach crossroads in life as opportunities," Christie said. "Even when circumstances changed, he appeared determined to find possibility within them." For Christie, these discoveries reinforced one of his primary goals in constructing *A Ronald Reagan Portrait* : to show how the arts can reveal the human stories behind historical figures. This was underscored by the value the couple placed on the arts in their own lives, carrying a love and appreciation for American culture long after Reagan left a career in Hollywood to pursue public service. "They recognized that there was greatness in what is created in this country and that American creativity can influence the world stage. I was happy to be reminded that they saw Americans as creators." Teaser Text New West Symphony's new work honors President Ronald Reagan's life and legacy as part of America's 250th anniversary celebrations.

Magnitude-3.2 Earthquake Information Statement

Magnitude-3.2 Earthquake Information Statement By Hawaiian Volcano Observatory June 25, 2026 A magnitude-3.2 earthquake occurred 8 miles (12 km) south of Hōnaunau-Nāpō‘opo‘o on the Island of Hawai‘i at a depth of 13 miles (21 km) below sea level at 8:34 a.m. HST on June 25, 2026. HAWAIIAN VOLCANO OBSERVATORY INFORMATION STATEMENT U.S. Geological Survey Thursday, June 25, 2026, 9:21 AM HST (Thursday, June 25, 2026, 19:21 UTC) Hawaiian Volcano Observatory Volcano Observatory Summary: A magnitude-3.16 earthquake occurred 8 miles (12 km) south of Hōnaunau-Nāpō‘opo‘o on the Island of Hawai‘i at a depth of 13 miles (21 km) below sea level at 8:34 a.m. HST on June 25, 2026. On Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 8:34 a.m. HST, a magnitude-3.1 earthquake occurred 8 miles (12 km) south of Hōnaunau-Nāpō‘opo‘o on the Island of Hawai‘i at a depth of 13 miles (21 km) below sea level. The earthquake had no apparent impact on Hualālai, Mauna Loa, or Kīlauea volcanoes. The earthquake today is likely an aftershock of the magnitude-6 earthquake that occurred on May 22. Like the magnitude-6 earthquake that occurred on May 22, this event is likely related to stress from the weight of the island on the underlying rigid mantle and was not directly related to volcanic processes or magma movement. Light shaking was reported during this event, no damage is expected. The USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory continues to monitor Hawaiian volcanoes

for any changes. EARTHQUAKE DESCRIPTION Magnitude: 3.1 Date and Time: June 25, 2026, at 8:34 a.m. HST Location: 8 miles (12 km) south of Hōnaunau-Nāpō‘opo‘o Depth: 13 miles (21 km) below sea level Additional aftershocks are possible in the coming days to weeks EARTHQUAKE INTENSITY AND AFFECTED AREA Potential Damage: No damage to buildings or infrastructure expected based on earthquake intensity Maximum Intensity, Modified Mercalli Scale (<https://www.usgs.gov/programs/earthquake-hazards/modified-mercalli-intensity-scale>) Community-reported: IV - light shaking Instrument-derived: IV - light shaking Felt Reports: More than 70 within the first hour (<https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes//dyfi/intensity>) Felt Area: West side of the Island of Hawai‘i with one felt report from Maui Visit NOAA’s Tsunami Warning Center website for updated information: <https://www.tsunami.gov/> EARTHQUAKE MAPS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION USGS National Earthquake Information Center Maps and Reports for this Event: <https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/eventpage/hv74990962> USGS-HVO Interactive Earthquake Map of Hawai‘i: <https://www.usgs.gov/observatories/hawaiian-volcano-observatory/earthquakes> The Hawaiian Volcano Observatory is one of five volcano observatories within the U.S. Geological Survey and is responsible for monitoring volcanoes and earthquakes in Hawai‘i and American Samoa. CONTACT INFORMATION: askHVO@usgs.gov Subscribe to these messages: <https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/vns2/> Summary of volcanic hazards from eruptions: <https://www.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/hazards> Recent earthquakes

in Hawai'i (map and list): <https://www.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo>
Explanation of Volcano Alert Levels and Aviation Color Codes: <https://www.usgs.gov/programs/VHP/volcanic-alert-levels-characterize-conditions-us-volcanoes>

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

