

GENTLE.NEWS

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*"Great things happen to those who don't stop believing, trying, learning,
and being grateful."*

— Roy T. Bennett

NASA Brings Space Wonders to the World Cup

More than 500,000 soccer fans got a big surprise at the FIFA World Cup this summer. NASA set up a free exhibit in Houston, Texas, for the tournament. Visitors got to explore the wonders of space!

The exhibit ran from June 11 to July 19, 2026. Fans from all over the world came to see it. They learned how NASA's work in space helps people here on Earth.

There was so much to see and do. People could look at a real Orion spacecraft and a space station model. They could touch moon rocks and see stunning photos from the Hubble Space Telescope. A soccer ball that actually flew in space was on display too!

One of the most popular activities was a lunar rover simulator. Visitors climbed in and drove across a virtual moon surface. There was also a Moon Base display showing how astronauts might live on the Moon one day. What an exciting peek into the future!

Two real astronauts, Commander Reid Wiseman and Pilot Victor Glover, attended a World Cup match as honored guests. They are training for NASA's Artemis mission to the Moon. Half a million fans left Houston feeling inspired by the amazing adventure of space exploration.

How Healthy Habitats Help Fish, People, and Nature

Nature needs good homes to stay healthy. Wetlands, rivers, and coral reefs are homes for fish and wildlife. When these places are cared for, everyone benefits. Clean water, safer coastlines, and fresh seafood all depend on healthy habitats.

A great example comes from Florida. A place called Robinson Preserve was once tired, worn-out farmland. People worked hard to bring it back to life. Now it is a thriving 700-acre coastal nature preserve. Fish are plentiful there again, and the water is healthy.

About 240,000 visitors enjoy Robinson Preserve every year. People walk, birdwatch, and enjoy the beauty of nature. The preserve also helps the local community by supporting jobs and businesses nearby. It shows what is possible when people care for the land.

Young people are also helping protect nature. Four college interns spent their summer working to restore the Chesapeake Bay. They learned important skills and did real, meaningful work. It is wonderful to see the next generation stepping up for the natural world.

Scientists are working on rivers too. On the Roanoke River in North Carolina, experts are finding ways to protect fish while also producing energy. Nature and people can work together. The future looks bright for fish, wildlife, and the communities that love them.

Smart Computers Help Turn Air Into Fuel

Scientists are using artificial intelligence, or AI, to help make fuel from carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide is the gas that fills the air around us every day.

To make fuel from this gas, scientists need special materials called catalysts. Catalysts help turn one thing into another. Finding the best catalyst is very hard work. AI computers can help make that job faster.

Four science labs across the country worked together on this project. They were led by a team at SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory. Together, they tested catalysts and shared their results. This teamwork was very important.

The scientists discovered something key. For AI to give good answers, it needs very careful, consistent data. Data means the information fed into the computer. If labs follow the same steps, their results match better. Better data means better predictions from the AI.

This research was published in a top science journal called Nature Catalysis. The work could one day help create clean fuels for our world. Scientists everywhere are excited about what AI can do to help our planet.

Hawaii's Volcano Watchers Keep Their Equipment Running

Scientists in Hawaii work hard to keep our volcanoes safe to watch. A team from the US Geological Survey spent time last July caring for special equipment on three volcanoes.

The volcanoes are called Mauna Loa, Hualālai, and Kohala. Each one has monitoring stations that collect important data. The stations send information back to scientists at the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory.

One station sits high on Kohala volcano. Ancient hills called pu'u stand in the background there. These hills formed from eruptions over one hundred thousand years ago. Workers must visit often to clear away thick green grass.

Another station sits on Hualālai volcano, more than a mile above sea level. It acts like a phone hub for the volcano. It gathers data from many stations and passes it along. A field engineer carefully tended the antenna there.

On Mauna Loa, workers replaced batteries in a tilt meter. This tool senses tiny movements in the ground. Another instrument measures gases in the air near Sulfur Cone. Rocks hold it down so strong winds cannot blow it away. Thanks to this caring team, Hawaii's volcanoes are watched around the clock, keeping everyone safe and informed.

Amazing New Camera Captures Half a Million Galaxies

A powerful new telescope has taken one of the most remarkable photos in the history of space exploration. The image shows more than half a million galaxies at once. That is truly hard to imagine!

The Vera C. Rubin Observatory in Chile captured this stunning picture. Its camera is the largest digital camera ever built. It has 3.2 billion tiny sensors to record light. That is far bigger than any camera you could hold in your hands.

The photo shows many different types of galaxies. Some have beautiful spiral arms, like a pinwheel. Others are round and smooth. Some galaxies are even bumping into each other! Each one holds billions of stars.

The best part is how far away these galaxies are. Some of their light traveled for billions of years to reach us. So looking at this photo is like looking back in time. Scientists can study how galaxies looked long before Earth even existed.

This discovery reminds us how vast and wonderful our universe truly is. Every tiny dot of light in that photo is an entire galaxy. There is still so much beauty waiting to be found among the stars.

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

CATALYST

SCIENCE

VOLCANO

COSMOS

GALAXY

STARS

RIVER

