

GENTLE.NEWS

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"Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens"

— Jimi Hendrix

NASA Captures Stunning Solar Eclipse from Space and Earth

On August 12, 2026, something wonderful happened in the sky. The Moon slowly moved in front of the Sun. This created a total solar eclipse. Skies over Greenland, Iceland, and Spain grew dark in the middle of the day.

NASA scientists and photographers were ready. They traveled to Spain to watch and take pictures. When the Moon fully covered the Sun, something magical appeared. A glowing halo of light surrounded the Sun. This is called the corona. It is the Sun's outer atmosphere. We can only see it during a total eclipse.

One photographer stood in a field of sunflowers in Spain. He captured the whole event step by step. His beautiful pictures show the Sun slowly disappearing and then returning. Another amazing photo shows a pink wisp of glowing gas along the Sun's edge. Scientists call this a solar prominence.

Far above Earth, the International Space Station was also passing by. Seven astronauts were aboard. A NASA photographer in Maine captured the space station speeding past the partially eclipsed Sun. It is an extraordinary image of our world and beyond.

These stunning pictures remind us how grand and beautiful our universe is. NASA shares them so everyone can enjoy the wonder of space. Even from the ground, looking up at the sky can fill our hearts with awe and joy.

Cool Water Secret Helps Endangered Salmon Survive

Scientists have made an exciting discovery about California's rarest salmon. They have found a key secret to helping these special fish survive and grow.

Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon are the most endangered salmon in California. Only a few thousand of these fish return to the river each year. Researchers from NOAA Fisheries and the University of California worked together to learn more about them.

The big discovery is about temperature. Cool water in the first 15 days after salmon eggs are laid is very important. This cool water helps the eggs grow into healthy baby fish. Even a small window of cold water can make a big difference.

Scientists used traditional field research along with new technology to make this finding. They studied how water temperature affected which eggs survived. Their results were published in a major science journal called Science Advances.

Water managers now have helpful new information. They can release cool water from Shasta Reservoir at just the right time to protect salmon eggs. This discovery gives hope that careful water management can help these beautiful fish thrive for many years to come.

Scientist Builds Special Tools to Explore Tiny Particles

A scientist in Tennessee is doing something truly amazing. John Lajoie builds special tools that help us see the tiniest things in the universe. These things are so small, no human eye could ever spot them.

Lajoie works at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. He is a physicist, which means he studies how matter and energy work. His big passion is building detectors. These are clever devices that catch signals from tiny particles after they collide at high speed.

Think of a detector like a very smart camera. It cannot take pictures with light. Instead, it catches invisible bursts of energy. Those bursts tell scientists what the tiniest building blocks of matter look like.

Lajoie and his team want to understand protons and neutrons. These are the tiny pieces inside every atom. Even smaller bits called quarks and gluons make up those pieces. Learning about them helps us understand how our whole universe was built.

Lajoie leads a team of scientists working on a big project called ePIC. Together, they are inventing brand new tools that no one has ever made before. Their work could one day answer some of the biggest questions in all of science. It is a wonderful reminder that human curiosity never stops reaching for answers.

Scientists Discover What Wakes Bears From Winter Sleep

Every winter, black bears curl up in their dens and fall into a deep sleep. This is called hibernation. Scientists have long wondered exactly what tells bears when to sleep and when to wake up.

A team of researchers at Virginia Tech has found some exciting answers. They studied four wild female bears at a special bear research center. The team watched more than 22,000 hours of video footage of the bears. That is a lot of bear watching!

The researchers found that two things work together to control bear hibernation. One is temperature. The other is the length of the day. As winter days grow shorter and colder, bears slow down and sleep. As days grow longer and warmer, bears begin to stir and wake up.

This is an important discovery. Scientists used to think temperature was the main signal. Now they know that the changing length of daylight matters just as much. These two signals work as a team inside the bear's body.

Bears are amazing animals with built-in clocks that follow the seasons. Understanding how they sleep helps us protect them in the wild. This research helps scientists keep bears healthy and safe for many years to come.

Nepal's Women Keep Ancient Culture Alive

In a faraway part of Nepal, a group of women are doing something truly special. They are keeping their culture alive for future generations.

The Rana Tharu people live in villages in western Nepal. Their women have long been the keepers of their traditions. They pass these traditions down through everyday life.

These women share their culture in beautiful ways. They wear traditional clothing and ancestral jewelry. They sing old songs and prepare traditional foods. They perform rituals that have existed for centuries.

The world is changing quickly around these villages. Many people are moving to cities. Old ways of life can easily be forgotten. But Rana Tharu women hold on to what matters most. They make sure their children and grandchildren know where they come from.

The United Nations has recognized how important this work is. In 2007, it made a declaration to protect Indigenous peoples and their cultures. The Rana Tharu women are living examples of why this matters. Their quiet, everyday dedication is a gift to us all.

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

PARTICLE

WINTER

CORONA

WOMEN

ORBIT

SLEEP

RIVER

