

GENTLE.NEWS

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"Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens"

— Jimi Hendrix

The Amazing Ancient Lake That Shaped Utah

Long ago, a giant lake covered much of Utah. It was called Lake Bonneville. At its biggest, it was almost as large as Lake Michigan. That is very big!

This huge lake formed about 55,000 years ago. The weather back then was cool and wet. Volcanic eruptions helped send water into the area. Over time, the water gathered into one great lake.

A natural dam held the lake in place for thousands of years. Then, about 18,000 years ago, the dam broke. A massive flood poured out. In just six weeks, the lake dropped more than 350 feet deep.

Slowly, the climate became warmer and drier. The great lake began to shrink. But it did not disappear completely. It left behind smaller lakes we still know today. The Great Salt Lake is one of them. Utah Lake is another.

The lake also left behind beautiful flat lands covered in salt and minerals. These bright white salt flats still exist today. NASA even took a photo of them from space. The image shows the stunning landscape Lake Bonneville left behind. What an amazing gift from our ancient past!

NASA Gives Its Rocket Science Tool a Modern Upgrade

NASA has updated one of its most important tools for studying rockets. The upgrade will help scientists do their work faster and more easily than before.

The tool is called CEA, which stands for Chemical Equilibrium with Applications. Scientists use it to figure out how rocket engines perform. It helps them understand how fuels burn and how much power a rocket can produce.

The original version of this tool was created back in 2002. It worked well for many years. But over time, scientists needed it to do more. So NASA's engineers got to work on a brand new version.

The new version is called CEA v3. It works with many modern computer programs, including Python and Excel. This means scientists can use it alongside their other tools much more easily. It also includes updated information about new, cleaner rocket fuels.

NASA engineers are proud of this achievement. The new tool keeps everything that made the old version trustworthy. At the same time, it opens the door to exciting new possibilities. It will help NASA build better rockets for years to come.

Special Crystals Help Scientists Explore Building Blocks of Matter

Scientists in the United States have reached an exciting milestone. They are building a powerful new machine to study the tiniest pieces of matter. Over 1,000 special crystals have just been delivered for this project.

The crystals are called lead-tungstate crystals. They are carefully grown and shaped for a very precise purpose. Each one was tested before being accepted. All 1,069 crystals passed their tests successfully.

These crystals will be part of a detector called ePIC. The detector works like a giant camera for particles. It will help scientists measure tiny pieces of matter that are too small to see. This gives researchers important clues about what our world is made of.

The machine is called the Electron-Ion Collider. It is being built in New York, with help from scientists in Virginia. Two streams of particles will travel in opposite directions and collide. The collisions will reveal secrets hidden deep inside atoms.

This project brings together some of America's brightest scientists. Graduate students are also involved, learning as they work. It is a proud moment for science in America. Discoveries from this machine could help us understand the very building blocks of everything we see around us.

Gentler Whale Tracker Helps Scientists Study Ocean Giants

Scientists have found a kinder way to track giant whales in the ocean. This is great news for whale lovers everywhere.

Whales are huge creatures. Some weigh as much as 40 tons. They spend most of their lives deep underwater. This makes them very hard to study.

Researchers used to attach tracking tags that went deep into whale muscle. These tags lasted a long time but could sometimes hurt the whale. Scientists wanted something safer.

A researcher named Alexandre Zerbini helped solve this problem. He and his team created a new kind of tag. It is called a "blubber-only" tag. It sits in the whale's outer fat layer. It does not go deeper into the body. This means less discomfort for the whale.

The new tag was tested on Southern right whales near Argentina. These are large, gentle whales. The tags worked very well. Scientists could follow the whales on long journeys across the ocean. They learned where the whales travel and rest. This helps protect whales from ships and other dangers. Everyone is very pleased with the results. The whales are safe, and science moves forward.

The Woman Who Brings the Library to Life

The Library of Congress is one of America's greatest treasures. It holds millions of books, maps, photos, and more. Now, a special leader is helping more people enjoy it.

Shari Werb runs the Center for Learning and Engagement at the Library of Congress. Her job is to help people connect with the Library. That includes visitors, online users, and whole communities.

Shari creates programs that feel warm and welcoming. Some are called Live! At the Library and Family Days. These programs give people fun, easy ways to explore the Library. They happen regularly, so people always know what to expect.

Shari has spent more than 35 years working at great cultural places. She started at the Holocaust Memorial Museum before it even opened. Later, she worked at the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum. There, she helped build a science center for young people.

Throughout her career, Shari has cared deeply about one thing. She wants programs to feel real and meaningful for everyone. She listens to what people need. Then she works with experts to create something special. Her efforts help make the Library of Congress a place for all Americans to enjoy and explore.

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

LEARNING

CRYSTAL

ROCKET

WHALE

OCEAN

FLOOD

NASA

