

GENTLE.NEWS

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"Yes, frosting. The final defense of the dying."

— Suzanne Collins

The Amazing Rocks That Look Like Another World

In Southern California, there is a place that looks like it belongs in a science fiction movie. It is called Vasquez Rocks, and it is truly something special.

The rocks there are very unusual. Giant slabs of stone jut up from the ground at sharp angles. Scientists say the rocks tilt at about 50 degrees. That means they lean dramatically, almost pointing at the sky.

These rocks were formed millions of years ago. Over time, movements deep in the Earth pushed the layers of rock sideways and upward. The result is a striking landscape unlike almost anywhere else on Earth.

The rocks are so unusual that Hollywood noticed them long ago. The famous TV show Star Trek used Vasquez Rocks as a filming location. Captain Kirk had an exciting adventure there in the very first season. Many other films and shows have used them too.

NASA has also taken pictures of these rocks from space. A satellite called Landsat 9 photographed the area recently. Even from high above, the rocky hills stand out against the dry, golden landscape below. Nature has created something truly wonderful here.

Surprise! Arizona Has Its Own Volcanoes

When most people think of Arizona, they picture dry deserts and red rocks. But Arizona is also home to many volcanoes. Some of them are still active today!

Scientists from the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory study these volcanoes. You may know Yellowstone as a famous park in Wyoming. But these scientists also watch over volcanoes across the American Southwest.

Arizona has several large volcanic fields. Two of them erupted less than 1,000 years ago. That is quite recent in volcano time! One is the San Francisco volcanic field, right next to the city of Flagstaff. The other is the Uinkaret volcanic field in the northwest corner of the state.

Scientists study these volcanoes to learn how often they erupt. They also look at what kinds of eruptions happened in the past. This helps them understand the land and keep people safe.

It is amazing to think that quiet, sunny Arizona holds such a fiery secret beneath its surface. Science helps us discover surprising things about the world around us every day.

Saturn Has a Giant Ten-Sided Shape at Its South Pole

Scientists have made a wonderful discovery about Saturn. The Hubble Space Telescope has spotted a ten-sided shape around Saturn's South Pole. A shape with ten sides is called a decagon.

This is not the first time Saturn has surprised us. Back in 1987, scientists found a six-sided shape around Saturn's North Pole. That shape has stayed the same for over 40 years. Now Saturn's South Pole has its own special shape too.

Why does this happen? Saturn spins very fast. Some gas near the middle of the planet moves quickly. Gas near the poles moves more slowly. When fast gas meets slow gas, it may create these neat geometric shapes.

The Hubble Space Telescope took a beautiful picture of Saturn's South Pole. The image shows bands of clouds swirling around the pole. The ten-sided shape shows up clearly in the darker inner part of the image.

Scientists will keep studying this new discovery. They want to learn how long this ten-sided shape will last. Saturn never stops amazing us. Even after all these years, our solar system still holds wonderful surprises waiting to be found.

Scientists Help Families Stay Safe From Wildfires

A team of scientists is working hard to help people protect their homes from wildfires. They are called the Wildfire Research Team. Their goal is to help families and neighborhoods stay safer.

The team studied how homeowners think about wildfire risk. They visited 38 communities across the western United States. They found something very interesting. Homeowners and trained experts often see risk differently.

Most homeowners thought their properties were safer than the experts did. This is important to know. It means many families may need more information. They may not know what steps to take to reduce risk.

This finding helps scientists plan better programs. They can now teach people exactly what to look for. Good information can help homeowners take smart steps to protect their homes and families.

The team also published a special series of guides called "Living with Wildfire." These guides are written for fire departments and local communities. They share simple, helpful ideas for staying safe. Scientists and neighbors working together can make communities stronger and safer for everyone.

Clever Robot Submarines Help Count Ocean Creatures

Scientists have built amazing underwater robots that explore the ocean floor. These robots swim on their own and take thousands of photos deep underwater.

Two of these robots recently swam more than 200 miles through the Atlantic Ocean. In just one week, they took over 68,000 pictures of the seafloor. That is a lot of pictures!

The photos help scientists count sea scallops, fish, crabs, squid, and many other sea creatures. Knowing how many animals live in the ocean helps people take care of them. It also helps fishing communities stay healthy for years to come.

The best part? A scientist can control these robots from a smartphone. Even from far away on land, the team can guide the robots through the deep ocean. The two robots are named Stella and Polaris. They were built by ocean research experts in California and Massachusetts.

These little robot explorers go places that big ships cannot reach. Every photo they take helps scientists learn more about ocean life. It is exciting to think about tiny robots swimming quietly through the deep blue sea, discovering wonders for all of us.

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

RESEARCH

DECAGON

SAFETY

HUBBLE

ROBOT

OCEAN

EARTH

