

GENTLE.NEWS

In Today's Edition

Nature & Environment

Scientists Catch Tiny Clues in Colorado River Water

Animals & Wildlife

Millions Spent to Give Fish Better Homes Across America

Technology & Innovation

Robot Submarines Help Count Scallops on the Ocean Floor

Science & Discovery

You Can Help NASA Study the Universe From Home

History & Heritage

A Young Woman's Flowers Kept Safe for 140 Years

Activity Time

Word Search Puzzle

*"The worst part of success is trying to find someone who is happy for
you."*

— Bette Midler

Scientists Catch Tiny Clues in Colorado River Water

Scientists have found something important in the Colorado River. They discovered signs of a small, harmful shellfish called the zebra mussel. This is the first time it has been spotted in Utah waters.

Zebra mussels are tiny striped creatures. They can cause big problems if they spread. They clog water pipes and crowd out native animals. Scientists wanted to find them early, before any real damage could be done.

A team from the U.S. Geological Survey used a clever new tool. Special machines collected water samples from the river. The machines can detect tiny bits of DNA left behind by animals. It is like finding a fingerprint in the water.

The sampling took place near Canyonlands National Park in Utah. Scientists found the zebra mussel DNA in June and July of 2026. Finding it early is very good news. It gives people time to act before the mussels can spread further.

Thanks to this discovery, wildlife managers quickly spread the word. They told the public how to help stop the mussels from moving into other waterways. This kind of careful, early watching helps protect nature for everyone to enjoy.

Millions Spent to Give Fish Better Homes Across America

America's fish are getting a big helping hand. The government has set aside \$103 million to help restore healthy homes for fish all across the country. Sixteen special projects will get this funding.

Fish need healthy places to live, just like we do. They rely on wetlands, rivers, and coral reefs to grow up, find food, and raise their young. When these places are healthy, fish thrive.

The projects will happen in many different states. Workers will plant corals to rebuild reefs in the Caribbean. They will also reconnect rivers so salmon can swim freely again. In the Gulf, salt marshes will be restored for shrimp and oysters.

Native tribes, universities, and conservation groups are all helping out. Together, they will clean up rivers, fix fish passages, and bring back healthy wetlands. It is a true team effort from coast to coast.

This good work will help not just fish, but people too. Healthy fisheries mean more fish for families to enjoy. They also support jobs and outdoor recreation for Americans everywhere. The future looks bright for fish and people alike.

Robot Submarines Help Count Scallops on the Ocean Floor

Scientists are using underwater robots to explore the ocean floor. These robots swim on their own, without anyone steering them. They are helping researchers learn more about sea life in the Atlantic Ocean.

The robots are called LRAUVs. That stands for long-range autonomous underwater vehicles. Two of them, named Stella and Polaris, recently swam more than 200 miles underwater. Along the way, they took over 68,000 photos of the ocean floor.

The photos showed many kinds of sea creatures. Scientists spotted scallops, crabs, fish, squid, and more. One expert said you can even control these robots from a regular smartphone. The robots send back information while still deep in the ocean.

The photos help scientists count how many scallops are living in the sea. This is important because scallops are a key part of ocean life. Better counts mean better decisions about protecting them for the future.

These robots can reach places that regular research ships cannot. That means scientists can learn more than ever before. It is an exciting time for ocean science, and the future looks bright.

You Can Help NASA Study the Universe From Home

Scientists are using powerful space telescopes to study distant galaxies. Now, they need your help to do it better.

NASA has a fun new project called Artifact InSPECtor. Anyone can take part, including children and older adults. You do not need any special skills or training to join in.

Two amazing telescopes are collecting light from millions of galaxies far across the universe. One is called Euclid. The other is NASA's Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope. Together, they help scientists learn how the universe is growing and changing over time.

Each telescope uses a special tool that works like a prism. It splits light from galaxies into rainbow colors. Scientists study these colorful patterns to learn how far away each galaxy is and what kinds of stars it holds.

But the data sometimes contains small errors called artifacts. Volunteers like you help train computers to spot and remove these errors. A nine-year-old girl named Maeve tried it and said, "It's really cool that we can help teach computers new skills." You can visit the NASA website to join this exciting project and help explore the universe.

A Young Woman's Flowers Kept Safe for 140 Years

In 1882, a 17-year-old named Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge traveled through Europe with her parents. She visited many countries and loved going to the opera. Along the way, she picked flowers and leaves and pressed them into a special journal.

Elizabeth's flower journal is truly remarkable. She collected moss from the graves of famous poets. She picked alpine flowers high in the Swiss mountains. One note in her own handwriting reads: "Walked fifteen miles." Another says: "Birthday flowers from Mrs. Oakley."

Each pressed flower was a memory from her journey. She wrote little notes beside them, naming the cities and places she had visited. After all these years, her handwriting is still there on the pages.

Elizabeth grew up to become a pianist and composer. In 1925, she created a music foundation at the Library of Congress. It has supported musicians and composers ever since. Her flower journal is kept safely in that same library today.

Experts carefully restored all 33 pages of the journal. Now people can study it and learn about Elizabeth's life. Her flowers, pressed so long ago, still connect us to a young woman's sense of wonder and adventure.

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

JOURNAL

FLOWERS

SPECTRA

SCALLOP

SAMPLE

SALMON

CORAL

