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# GENTLE.NEWS

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*"What's the good of living if you don't try a few things?"*

— Charles M. Schulz

## Four Brave Volunteers Spend a Year Pretending to Live on Mars

Four people just finished something truly amazing. They lived inside a small home for a whole year without ever going outside. And they did it all to help NASA plan future trips to Mars.

The four volunteers are Ross Elder, Ellen Ellis, Matthew Montgomery, and James Spicer. They moved into a special 3D-printed home in Houston, Texas in October 2024. The home was only 1,700 square feet. That is about the size of a small house.

Inside, they lived just like astronauts on Mars would. They grew their own food. They managed supplies carefully. They even wore spacesuits to walk on a pretend Mars surface nearby. Messages to their families took extra time, just like real Mars communication would.

NASA scientists watched the crew closely all year long. They collected health and safety information the whole time. This data will help NASA keep future astronauts safe on very long space journeys. It is important and exciting work.

After 378 days, the crew finally stepped outside again. They got to hug their families for the first time in over a year. NASA leaders said they were extremely proud of the crew. Their hard work and bravery will help make a real Mars mission possible one day.

Source: NASA

## Workers Build New Oyster Reefs in Chesapeake Bay

Workers are building something wonderful in the Chesapeake Bay. A crane on a barge drops large loads of stones into the water. These stones form the base of brand new oyster reefs. The project will create more than 70 acres of reef habitat.

Oysters are tiny animals that live in the water and build hard shells. They are very good for the bay. They clean the water by filtering it as they eat. Healthy oyster reefs also give fish and other creatures a safe place to live.

The United States government gave $10 million to help pay for this work. Scientists and workers have been restoring oyster reefs in the Chesapeake Bay for many years. By the end of 2025, they had already brought back 1,900 acres of oyster reef. Almost all of those reefs are doing very well.

Now, the team is ready to do even more. Their new goal is to restore 2,000 more acres of oyster reef by the year 2040. This new project in Hooper Strait is the exciting first step.

One scientist called it "the opening chapter of the next story." It is the largest reef-building project the agency has ever funded. The bay and all its creatures have a bright future ahead.

Source: NOAA Fisheries

## Amazing Fish That Swim Across the Whole Ocean

Some fish travel thousands of miles through the ocean. They cross borders between countries without stopping. Fish like yellowfin tuna and swordfish do this every year. It is one of nature's most amazing journeys.

These fish are important to many people. Fishing families along America's coasts depend on them. Seafood lovers enjoy eating them at dinner tables everywhere. Keeping these fish healthy matters to millions of people.

Because the fish swim so far, many countries work together to protect them. Scientists and fishing experts share what they learn. Together, they make sure there are always enough fish in the sea. This teamwork across the world is really something special.

In the United States, experts carefully watch over these fish. They count how many there are and track where they go. They make sure fishing stays at a safe level. This helps the fish population stay strong for the future.

Thanks to all this care and cooperation, these wonderful fish keep swimming free. Future generations will be able to enjoy them too. It is a beautiful example of people working together for nature. The ocean and its amazing creatures are in good hands.

Source: NOAA Fisheries

## NASA Satellites Track How Humans Shape Earth's Water

Water is always on the move. It flows through rivers, soaks into soil, and fills lakes underground. Now, NASA scientists have found that humans are changing how this works in big ways.

NASA has special satellites in space called GRACE. These satellites can measure tiny changes in Earth's gravity. That helps scientists see where water is building up or disappearing. The satellites have been watching Earth for over twenty years.

Scientists looked at data from 2002 to 2025. They found 40 regions around the world where human activity has changed how water moves. Farming, dams, and land use were the biggest causes. These changes were found on nearly every continent.

In some places, human activity had an even stronger effect than the weather did. That surprised the scientists. It shows just how powerful our actions can be. The researchers want to use this knowledge to help protect water supplies for the future.

This study helps us understand our planet better. Clean fresh water is one of Earth's most precious gifts. With tools like NASA's satellites, scientists can keep watch and help care for the water we all depend on.

Source: NASA

## NASA Software Helps Make Quieter, Better Airplanes

Scientists at NASA are using special computer programs to make airplane engines quieter and better. These programs help engineers design improved engines for the future.

One program is called JeNo. It predicts how much noise a jet engine will make. Engineers use it to test new ideas before building anything. This saves time and money during the design process.

Another program is called MGBK. It helped NASA study a clever invention called chevrons. Chevrons are small zigzag edges on jet engine nozzles. You may have noticed them on airplane engines at the airport. They help reduce the roaring noise jets make when they fly.

Thanks to this research, today's airplanes are much quieter than they used to be. People living near airports enjoy more peace because of this work. Passengers inside the plane enjoy a quieter ride too.

NASA shares these programs with engineers all around the world. Anyone can request a copy through NASA's Software Catalog. This spirit of sharing helps the whole world build better, quieter, and safer airplanes for everyone to enjoy.

Source: NASA

## Activity Time - Word Search

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

**Words to Find:**

SOFTWARE NOZZLE OYSTER RIVER

WATER CRANE FISH

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | W | S | Q | P | U | H | D | D | E | F |
| W | A | C | U | J | F | L | Y | C | R | S |
| H | T | S | W | M | L | J | X | Z | I | M |
| N | E | O | F | I | S | H | Y | T | V | O |
| P | R | F | A | Q | W | N | G | S | E | S |
| Z | N | T | A | R | C | O | W | Q | R | N |
| A | R | W | X | I | R | Z | B | A | A | W |
| P | F | A | G | H | A | Z | N | Q | A | E |
| U | S | R | B | Z | N | L | L | P | N | Y |
| U | X | E | A | U | E | E | Y | Z | G | O |
| F | S | A | H | O | Y | S | T | E | R | S |