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GENTLE.NEWS

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"Never underestimate the power of stupid people in large groups."

— George Carlin

NASA Spots a Giant Ocean Pattern From Space

NASA scientists are watching something amazing in the Pacific Ocean. A powerful weather pattern called El Niño has returned in 2026. Satellites high above Earth are tracking it closely.

El Niño happens when ocean water near the equator gets warmer than usual. This causes sea levels in that part of the Pacific to rise higher than normal. Scientists can see this change from space using special instruments.

What makes this so exciting is how much today looks like the past. The pattern in 2026 looks almost exactly like October 1997. That year was one of the strongest El Niño events ever recorded. Seeing the same pattern again amazes scientists.

NASA uses satellites to measure the height of the ocean surface. These measurements help scientists understand how our planet works. The pictures from space show the warm water as bright patches across the ocean. It looks almost like a painting from above.

Thanks to decades of watching from space, scientists know more than ever. Each new El Niño teaches us something new about Earth. Our planet is always changing, and NASA is always watching. It is wonderful to know such careful eyes are looking after our world.

Source: NASA

Young Students Win Top Prizes for Geology Maps

Every year, young students from across America compete to make the best maps of rocks and land. This year's winners were announced at a big gathering in Denver, Colorado. Twenty students took part in the contest.

The students studied real land in the field. They looked at rocks, hills, and mountains up close. Then they drew detailed maps of what they found. The maps showed places from the Rocky Mountains all the way to central Tibet.

This year's first place winner was Daniel Vega. He studies at Idaho State University. His map showed the geology of a mountain area in Cassia County, Idaho. He even brought his dog Jasper with him while working in the field. What a great helper!

Second place went to Dylan Frawley from Colorado State University. He mapped a beautiful area in the Sangre de Cristo mountain range in Colorado. Both young men worked very hard on their research.

These students are doing important work. Their maps help us understand the land beneath our feet. It is wonderful to see young people so dedicated to learning about our amazing planet. The future of science is in very good hands.

Source: U.S. Geological Survey

A Camera Snaps a Beautiful Picture of Star Birth

Far out in space, there is a beautiful cloud of gas and dust. It is called the Seagull Nebula. Scientists say it looks like a seagull flying through the sky.

A powerful new telescope recently took a stunning photo of this nebula. The telescope is called the Rubin Observatory. It sits high in the mountains of Chile. Its special camera has 3,200 megapixels. That makes it the biggest camera of its kind ever built.

The photo shows something wonderful happening inside the nebula. New stars are being born there right now. Clouds of gas and dust are slowly pulling together. Over a very long time, they form bright, shining stars.

Scientists are very excited about this image. It shows just how well the new telescope is working. The Rubin Observatory will spend years photographing the sky. It will help us learn more about our universe than ever before.

This is just the beginning of many great discoveries. The telescope will take millions of photos over time. Each one may reveal something new and amazing about the stars above us. The night sky still holds many beautiful secrets waiting to be found.

Source: Brookhaven National Laboratory

Tiny Robots Could Make Heart Surgery Much Safer

Scientists have invented amazing tiny robots that could help heal heart infections. These little robots are no bigger than the tip of a pencil. One day, they may replace risky open-heart surgery.

Each year, about 50,000 Americans get a heart infection called endocarditis. Right now, doctors treat it with medicine given through a needle in the arm. Sadly, this often does not work well. The medicine gets too watered down before it reaches the heart.

The tiny robots work in pairs to solve this problem. One robot latches gently onto the infected spot in the heart. It waits there like a little landing pad. The second robot carries medicine straight to that spot. Then it docks and slowly releases the medicine right where it is needed.

A scientist named Axel Krieger helped create these robots. He says a doctor would just make a tiny pinprick in the skin to insert the robot. There would be no large cuts, no heavy blood loss, and no long recovery time. The robots are guided by magnets, so no surgeon needs to operate them by hand.

These clever little robots could help with other hard-to-reach illnesses too, including cancer. Scientists believe this is just the beginning of a whole new kind of medicine. The future of healing looks very bright indeed!

Source: Futurity.org

A Friendly Owl Helps Kids Stay Safe Online

A clever new video game is helping children with Down syndrome learn how to use the internet safely. The game was made by a team of caring developers in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a country in Europe.

The game is called SafeClick. A friendly owl named Sol guides children through each lesson. Sol speaks clearly and uses simple pictures. This makes learning fun and easy to understand.

Children with Down syndrome love technology just like anyone else. But until now, there were very few tools made just for them. Most online safety lessons used too many words and were too hard to follow.

SafeClick changes all of that. The game lets children practice making safe choices on the internet. They can learn at their own pace. They build confidence with every step they take.

Families and caregivers are very pleased with this new tool. It means children can enjoy the internet without worry. The team behind SafeClick hopes to help even more children in the future. It is a wonderful example of how technology can be kind, gentle, and truly helpful to all.

This story originally appeared on Global Voices

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

MAPPING MAGNET SAFETY NEBULA HEART ROCKY GAME

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