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GENTLE.NEWS

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"Lack of direction, not lack of time, is the problem. We all have twenty-four hour days."

— Zig Ziglar

NASA Satellites Watch Autumn Colors Spread Across Earth

Every autumn, leaves put on a beautiful show. They turn from green to gold, orange, and red. Now NASA can watch this happen from space.

NASA has a satellite called PACE. It flies high above Earth and takes pictures. It can see the colors of plants and trees all over the world.

Scientists used PACE to make special maps. The maps show where leaves are turning red. Dark green means plants are still green. Bright red means leaves have changed color.

The maps showed something wonderful. In late September, red leaves appeared in Alaska and northern Canada. They also appeared in Russia and Mongolia. Just one week later, the red colors moved further south. More color appeared in the eastern United States and China.

It is like watching a giant wave of color slowly spread across the planet. Scientists are excited about these maps. They help us understand how seasons change around the world. The same autumn magic that you see outside your window is happening everywhere on Earth at once.

Source: NASA

Many Cultures, One Home: Mozambique's Blended Communities

In the country of Mozambique, in east Africa, many different peoples have lived side by side for centuries. One group with a fascinating story is the community of Indian origin. Their families came long ago as traders and settlers, crossing the Indian Ocean to build new lives on African shores.

These families have been part of Mozambique for many generations. Over time, they became woven into the fabric of local life — through business, friendship, food, and celebration. Today, their children and grandchildren call Mozambique home.

One beautiful example is the Hindu festival of Navratri, which Indian-Mozambican families celebrate with colour and joy. Bright lights, music, and dancing fill the streets. Neighbours of all backgrounds are welcome to join in the fun.

What makes someone belong to a country? It is not just where your grandparents came from. It is where you grow up, where your friends are, and where your heart feels at home. Many Indian-Mozambican families feel deeply Mozambican in every way that matters.

Their story reminds us that communities are enriched when different cultures blend together. Across the world, people of many backgrounds share a homeland and build something wonderful together.

This story originally appeared on Global Voices

Kansas Teachers Sail the Ocean to Inspire Students

Two teachers from Kansas got the adventure of a lifetime this summer. They left the flat wheat fields of home and sailed out onto the open ocean to help real scientists do important research.

Amelia Black teaches in Topeka, and Guy Sturdevant teaches in Wichita. Both joined a special program run by NOAA, the government agency that studies our oceans and weather. The program sends teachers out on research ships so they can bring ocean science back to their classrooms.

Ms. Black traveled to the Gulf of Mexico to help scientists count and study fish living near the ocean floor. Mr. Sturdevant sailed all the way to Alaska's Bering Sea. He helped scientists study pollock, a fish many of us have eaten in fish sandwiches and fish sticks.

Life on a research ship was not easy. The teachers worked long twelve-hour shifts. The ocean waves kept the ship rocking. But both teachers took photos and wrote stories to share with their students back home. They wanted every child to know that ocean science belongs to everyone.

Kansas is far from any ocean, but that did not stop these two teachers. They showed their students that curiosity and courage can take you anywhere. Only eight other Kansas teachers had ever done this before. What an inspiration!

Source: NOAA Fisheries

Amazing Oysters Help Clean Our Ocean Waters

Oysters are tiny animals that do big, important jobs. They live in the ocean and along coastlines. And they are wonderful helpers for our natural world.

One amazing thing oysters do is clean the water. As they eat, they filter out dirt and tiny particles. This makes the water clearer and healthier for all sea life.

Oysters also build something called reefs. These are rocky structures made from many oysters living close together. Reefs give fish and other sea creatures a safe home. Many animals depend on these reefs to survive and thrive.

Two kinds of oysters are well known in America. The Eastern oyster lives along the East Coast and in the Chesapeake Bay. The Pacific oyster came from Japan and now thrives along the West Coast. Both are important to the ocean and to people who love seafood.

Scientists are working hard to bring oysters back to places where they have disappeared. In the Chesapeake Bay, teams are building 70 new acres of oyster reef. This is wonderful news for the ocean and all the creatures living there. Thanks to these efforts, our waters are getting healthier every single day. Nature and people working together can achieve truly beautiful things.

Source: NOAA Fisheries

Scientists Weave a Touchscreen Into a Shirt Sleeve

Imagine a shirt sleeve that works like a phone screen. You could tap it, see pictures on it, and connect it to other devices. Scientists have made this real!

A team in Singapore created special fibers that light up and sense touch. They wove 54 of these fibers into a sleeve. The result is the world's first touchscreen built right into clothing.

The sleeve can show images and even video. It responds when you press it with your finger. It also connects wirelessly to phones and other gadgets. Best of all, you can still wash it like any normal piece of clothing.

The tiny fibers work like yarn, but with electronics built inside. Each thread is just one millimeter thick. That is thinner than a pencil tip! Scientists placed more than 5,000 tiny chips inside the fabric.

One day, this technology could show health information right on your sleeve. No heavy device needed. No rigid screen to carry. Just soft, comfortable clothing that also works as a smart display. It is a truly exciting step into the future of everyday wear!

Source: Futurity.org

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

SCIENCE SLEEVE SCREEN FOREST

FABRIC FIBER REEF

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