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GENTLE.NEWS

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"A snowball in the face is surely the perfect beginning to a lasting friendship."

— Markus Zusak

Scientists Discover a Brand New Kind of Magnet

Most of us learned about magnets in school. You may remember how magnets stick to your fridge. But did you know scientists just found a whole new type of magnetism?

For many decades, scientists knew of only two kinds. One is called ferromagnetism. That is what makes fridge magnets work. The other is called antiferromagnetism. These two types seemed to explain everything about magnets in nature.

Now, a team of scientists at a big American research lab has made an exciting discovery. They have proven that a third kind of magnetism exists. They call it "altermagnetism." This new type has qualities of both older types combined. Think of it as a brand new flavor that mixes two familiar ones.

The scientists studied a special material called manganese telluride. Inside it, they found a tiny spiral pattern in how atoms behave. This swirling pattern could only be explained by this new third type. Their findings were published in a top science journal called Science.

This discovery is more than just interesting. It could lead to better computers and memory devices one day. It may even help build the technology of the future. Scientists are very excited about what comes next!

Source: SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory

Women in Kazakhstan Join Together to Help Their Village

In a small village in Kazakhstan, a group of women is working together to make life better. Kazakhstan is a large country in Central Asia.

A woman named Nazgul saw that her neighbors needed help. The women in her village spent many hours every day finding water for their families. This hard work was tiring and often went unnoticed.

Nazgul started a special program to help these women. She taught them new skills. They learned how to work with local leaders to solve problems. They also learned how to measure the value of their hard work. That was an important new idea.

The women began working as a team. Together, they found ways to bring more water to their village. A group working together can do so much more than one person working alone. The women felt proud and hopeful about their efforts.

Stories like this remind us that ordinary people can make a big difference. When neighbors help each other, whole communities can grow stronger. These brave women in Kazakhstan are a wonderful example of kindness and teamwork in action.

This story originally appeared on Global Voices

Antarctic Island Looks Like a Smiling Skull From Space

NASA cameras have spotted something amazing in Antarctica. A frozen island looks just like a grinning skull from above. The island is called Vega Island. It sits in a cold, icy sea near the South Pole.

The "skull face" is made by nature itself. Rocky outcrops form what looks like an eye socket. A ridge of old glacier debris forms what looks like a mouth. Together, they make a spooky but wonderful face in the ice.

NASA took photos using a satellite called Landsat 9. The pictures were taken in different seasons. In autumn, the island is covered in white snow. In spring, some ice melts away and turns gray. The face looks a little different in each photo.

Scientists at NASA love finding fun shapes in nature. It reminds us that our planet is full of surprises. People have always enjoyed finding faces in clouds or rocks. This is just a much bigger version of that game.

Vega Island is very far away and hard to visit. But thanks to NASA satellites, we can all enjoy the view from home. It is a reminder that even the coldest, most distant places on Earth hold something wonderful and magical for us to discover.

Source: NASA

Scientists and Fishers Team Up to Study Squid

You may know calamari from a restaurant menu. It comes from a small sea creature called longfin squid. These squid live along the East Coast of the United States. They are an important part of ocean life.

Longfin squid are fascinating and tricky to study. They live less than one year but grow very quickly. Their numbers can change a lot depending on ocean conditions. They also travel with the seasons, moving south in fall and north again each spring.

Scientists wanted to understand these squid better. They worked closely with local fishing boat crews. Together, they gathered information that scientists alone could not easily collect. This teamwork made a big difference in what they were able to learn.

In 2026, a group of expert scientists reviewed all the new research. They approved two strong new models for tracking squid populations. These tools are much better than older methods used in the past. Managers can now make smarter, more confident decisions.

This is a wonderful example of people working together toward a shared goal. Fishers and scientists joined hands to protect and understand ocean life. Their hard work will help keep squid populations healthy for many years to come.

Source: NOAA Fisheries

Pacific Island Fishing Traditions Span Thousands of Years

The Pacific Islands are home to some of the world's oldest fishing traditions. For thousands of years, communities in Hawai‘i, American Samoa, and the Mariana Islands have lived alongside the sea.

Fishing is much more than a way to earn a living. Each day on the water is part work and part way of life. Some fish are sold at market. Some go home for dinner. The rest is often shared with neighbors and friends. This sharing builds strong community bonds.

The ocean connects these island communities rather than separating them. It provides food, culture, and a deep sense of pride. Local fishing stories and traditions have been passed down through generations.

For 50 years, a law called the Magnuson-Stevens Act has helped protect these important fisheries. It allows fishing communities to have a say in how their waters are managed and cared for.

As one Pacific Islands leader put it, fisheries are "food security, cultural heritage, and jobs." They give communities a voice in decisions about their own waters. These proud traditions continue to thrive across the beautiful Pacific today.

Source: NOAA Fisheries

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

GLACIER FISHING KAZAKH ISLAND

SEASON WOMEN TUNA

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