

Weekly Science Report

January 30, 2026

“It happened, and it can therefore happen again. Therein lies the core of what we have to say.”

Primo Levi, Auschwitz Survivor

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Introduction

Steve Detwiler created this publication with the support of Graham Hancock and the late John Anthony West to share news and information on various disciplines to include but not limited to paleontology, space sciences, genetics, and archaeology. His goal behind sharing this publication has always been very simple, by sharing knowledge we can make our world a better place. This publication is Mr. Detwiler's contribution to bring people together and share ideas and discoveries with his fellow humans.

I hope you enjoy this publication and that the content challenges and inspires you!

The Weekly Science Report is also on social media at:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/weeklysciencertpt/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/wklysciencertpt>

News Articles

Paleontology, Evolution and Prehistoric Studies

Meet the Kennewick Man: Face of 'most important' ancient American revealed after 8,500 years

<https://news.sky.com/story/meet-the-kennewick-man-face-of-most-important-ancient-american-revealed-after-8-500-years-13491857>

Neanderthals took reusable toolkits with them on high-altitude treks through the Alps

<https://phys.org/news/2026-01-neanderthals-reusable-toolkits-high-altitude.html>

Ape-like hominin Paranthropus was more adaptable than we thought

https://www.newscientist.com/article/2512373-ape-like-hominin-paranthropus-was-more-adaptable-than-we-thought/?fbclid=IwDGRzaAPd6VRjbGNrA93pemV4dG4DYWVtAjExAHNyDGMGYXBwX2IkDDM1MDY4NTUzMTcyOAAABHpZtaHbEWbw2PhpPsgDY8RE3aUQekCEbmiZo3PzZ7wqNgLkmA5MmHZqP39ph_aem_4QUIZEfG5KoavCwuuJ8mlQ&sfnsn=mo

Wolf's dinner preserved in Siberia for 14,400 years sheds light on woolly rhino

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2026/jan/14/wolf-cub-preserved-permafrost-woolly-rhino>

T. rex grew up slowly: New study reveals 'king of dinosaurs' kept growing until age 40

https://phys.org/news/2026-01-rex-grew-slowly-reveals-king.html#google_vignette

A centuries-old debate on how reptiles keep evolving skin bones is finally settled

https://phys.org/news/2026-01-centuries-debate-reptiles-evolving-skin.html#google_vignette

The dinosaur secrets found in the archives of a natural history museum

<https://www.npr.org/2026/01/06/nx-s1-5629195/secrets-dinosaurs-treasures-fossils-holotype-paleontology>

This Hammer Created From an Elephant Bone 480,000 Years Ago May Be the Oldest Known Tool of Its Kind Ever Found in Europe

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/this-hammer-created-from-an-elephant-bone-480000-years-ago-is-the-oldest-known-tool-of-its-kind-ever-found-in-europe-180988063/>

Stone Age teenager was mauled by a bear 28,000 years ago, skeletal analysis confirms

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/stone-age-teenager-was-mauled-by-a-bear-28-000-years-ago-skeletal-analysis-confirms>

New animal species that survived mass extinction event half a billion years ago found in a quarry in China

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ancient-species-mass-extinction-event-found-quarry-china/>

Strange Red Rocks in Australia Are Challenging Long-Held Ideas About Fossils

<https://scitechdaily.com/strange-red-rocks-in-australia-are-challenging-long-held-ideas-about-fossils/>

Scientists launch AI DinoTracker app that identifies dinosaur footprints

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2026/jan/26/scientists-launch-ai-dinotracker-app-that-identifies-dinosaur-footprints>

Scientists Intrigued by Unfamiliar Life Form

<https://futurism.com/science-energy/scientists-intrigued-unfamiliar-life-form>

Scientists recover the oldest wooden tools from a site in Greece

<https://apnews.com/article/oldest-wooden-tools-marathousa-1-6e07cfc79f6d8ba648138f805531b933>

Humans returned to British Isles earlier than previously thought at the end of the last Ice Age

<https://phys.org/news/2026-01-humans-british-isles-earlier-previously.html>

2.6 million-year-old jaw from extinct 'Nutcracker Man' is found where we didn't expect it

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/human-evolution/2-6-million-year-old-jaw-from-extinct-nutcracker-man-is-found-where-we-didnt-expect-it>

Teenage girl who lived in Italy 12,000 years ago had a rare form of dwarfism, DNA study shows

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/teenage-girl-who-lived-in-italy-12-000-years-ago-had-a-rare-form-of-dwarfism-dna-study-shows>

More than 43,000 years ago, Neanderthals spent centuries collecting animal skulls in a cave; but archaeologists aren't sure why

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/human-evolution/more-than-43-000-years-ago-neanderthals-spent-centuries-collecting-animal-skulls-in-a-cave-but-archaeologists-arent-sure-why>

Baby dinosaurs a common prey for Late Jurassic predators

<https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/1114452>

History

Meet 13 People Who Survived on Deserted Islands, From a Real-Life Robinson Crusoe to a Noblewoman Marooned With Her Lover

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/meet-13-people-who-survived-on-deserted-islands-from-a-real-life-robinson-crusoe-to-a-noblewoman-marooned-with-her-lover-180988028/>

Grandson of Auschwitz commandant: 'My grandfather was greatest mass murderer in history'

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-884785>

How I reclaimed a blueprint of genocide to fight Holocaust denial

<https://www.sun-sentinel.com/2026/01/27/how-i-reclaimed-a-blueprint-of-genocide-to-fight-holocaust-denial-opinion/>

Lost Temple of Hittite Goddess Kubaba Discovered in Turkey Sheds Light on Ancient Anatolian Worship

<https://greekreporter.com/2026/01/23/lost-kubaba-temple-turkey-ancient-anatolian-worship/>

History Remembered This Black Medal of Honor Recipient for the Two Worst Days of His Life. A New Book Dives Into the Vietnam Vet's Story

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/history-remembered-this-black-medal-of-honor-recipient-for-the-two-worst-days-of-his-life-a-new-book-dives-into-the-vietnam-vets-story-180987987/>

South African San rock art reveals trance dances and initiation ceremonies

<https://phys.org/news/2026-01-south-african-san-art-reveals.html>

Romans used human feces as medicine 1,900 years ago — and used thyme to mask the smell

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/romans/romans-used-human-feces-as-medicine-1-900-years-ago-and-used-thyme-to-mask-the-smell>

The British Crown Enslaved Thousands at the Height of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. New Research Reveals Their Stories

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-british-crown-enslaved-thousands-at-the-height-of-the-trans-atlantic-slave-trade-new-research-reveals-their-stories-180988005/>

Why Do These Tudor-Era Portraits of Anne Boleyn and Elizabeth I Look So Strikingly Similar?

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/why-do-these-tudor-era-portraits-of-anne-boleyn-and-elizabeth-i-look-so-strikingly-similar-180988051/>

Ten of the Most Exciting Ways to Commemorate America's 250th This Year

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/ten-of-the-most-exciting-ways-to-commemorate-americas-250th-this-year-180988106/>

A Stunning Escape From Slavery Told on Tattered Pages

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/a-stunning-escape-from-slavery-told-on-tattered-pages-180988083/>

Archaeology

Mass grave in Jordan sheds new light on world's earliest recorded pandemic

https://www.theguardian.com/science/2026/jan/31/plague-of-justinian-pandemic?CMP=fb_gu&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwdGRzaAPrGnBleHRuA2FbQlxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZAwzNTA2ODU1MzE3MjgAAR4eB3b5uvMxG6uVu4po8_YbtXyBV80u0N1fX9ED4hk3FAvXT1nq3113wnQHNg_aem_G5lip45z3IM0P9Uc1WiP4g&sfnsn=mo

Astonishing 1,400-year-old tomb featuring giant owl sculpture discovered in Mexico

<https://www.cnn.com/2026/01/29/science/zapotec-tomb-mexico-scli-intl>

Varna Gold: Humanity's first gold jewelry was found in a cemetery with a gold 'penis sheath'

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/varna-gold-humanitys-first-gold-jewelry-was-found-in-a-cemetery-with-a-gold-penis-sheath>

Iron Age teeth fossils reveal diversity of diet of ancient Italians

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/archaeology/italy-food-love-iron-age-fossil-b2901705.html>

India's Longest Iron Age Spear: 8-Foot Weapon Found in Tamil Nadu Burial

<https://greekreporter.com/2026/01/29/india-longest-iron-age-spear-tamil-nadu-burial/>

Beach Erosion Reveals Fragments of a 136-Year-Old Shipwreck That Sank in New Jersey's 'Graveyard of the Atlantic'

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/beach-erosion-reveals-fragments-of-a-136-year-old-shipwreck-that-sank-in-new-jerseys-graveyard-of-the-atlantic-180988079/>

The Great Mongolian Road: Japanese Imperial Army maps reveal first detailed documentation

<https://phys.org/news/2026-01-great-mongolian-road-japanese-imperial.html>

Archaeologists Discovered the 'Holy Grail' of Shipwrecks a Decade Ago. Now, They're Finally Beginning to Unravel the Secrets of the 'San José'

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/archaeologists-discovered-the-holy-grail-of-shipwrecks-a-decade-ago-now-theyre-finally-beginning-to-unravel-the-secrets-of-the-san-jose-180988050/>

Two rare 5th millennium BC fetal burials in Iran reveal variable prehistoric practices

<https://phys.org/news/2026-01-rare-5th-millennium-bc-fetal.html>

Egyptology

Discovery of monumental sacred lake at Karnak

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2026/01/discovery-of-monumental-sacred-lake-at-karnak/156860>

5,000-year-old rock art from ancient Egypt depicts 'terrifying' conquest of the Sinai Peninsula

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/ancient-egyptians/5-000-year-old-rock-art-from-ancient-egypt-depicts-terrifying-conquest-of-the-sinai-peninsula>

General Science

Multi-agent AI and robots automate materials discovery in closed-loop lab system
https://phys.org/news/2026-01-multi-agent-ai-robots-automate.html#google_vignette

Physics, Earth and Space Sciences

Halley wasn't the first to figure out the famous comet. An 11th-century monk did it first, new research suggests.

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/halley-wasnt-the-first-to-figure-out-the-famous-comet-an-11th-century-monk-did-it-first-new-research-suggests>

NASA quietly ends financial support for planetary science groups

https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/nasa-quietly-ends-financial-support-for-planetary-science-groups/?utm_campaign=sprinklr&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwVERTSA-PdzjBleHRuA2FibQlxMABzcnRjBmFwcF9pZAwzNTA2ODU1MzE3MjgAAR6ECXAI-jqdCmu_kgR7aBv5Ym91gqtRuCZ9SQ6tPnvzalbXtMG_lkY4BUUug_aem_3aXthJekU85WtTDi7tlbRQ&sfnsn=mo

James Webb Space Telescope discovers young galaxies age rapidly: 'It's like seeing 2-year-old children act like teenagers'

<https://www.space.com/astronomy/galaxies/james-webb-space-telescope-discovers-young-galaxies-age-rapidly-its-like-seeing-2-year-old-children-act-like-teenagers>

China previews how powerful its new Xuntian space telescope will be ahead of 2027 launch

<https://www.space.com/astronomy/china-previews-how-powerful-its-new-xuntian-space-telescope-will-be-ahead-of-2027-launch-video>

Say goodbye to Comet 3I/ATLAS! Watch it head for interstellar space in real-time with this free livestream today

<https://www.space.com/astronomy/comets/say-goodbye-to-comet-3i-atlas-watch-it-head-for-interstellar-space-in-real-time-with-this-free-jan-16-livestream>

NASA astronaut Suni Williams, who stayed in space for 9 months after spacecraft problem, retires

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/suni-williams-nasa-astronaut-stayed-space-9-months-boeing-problem-reti-rcna255104>

After a medical evacuation from space, NASA's Crew-11 returns to Earth a month early

<https://www.npr.org/2026/01/15/nx-s1-5677647/nasa-spacex-crew-11-splashdown-return>

New state of matter discovered in a quantum material

<https://phys.org/news/2026-01-state-quantum-material.html>

NASA pessimistic about odds of recovering MAVEN

<https://spacenews.com/nasa-pessimistic-about-odds-of-recovering-maven/>

Massive supernova explosion may have created a binary black hole

<https://www.space.com/astronomy/black-holes/massive-supernova-explosion-may-have-created-a-binary-black-hole>

Eric and Wendy Schmidt to fund space telescope, three ground-based observatories

<https://www.astronomy.com/science/eric-and-wendy-schmidt-to-fund-space-telescope-three-ground-based-observatories/>

NASA Powers Up a Massive Solar Engine for the Moon

<https://scitechdaily.com/nasa-powers-up-a-massive-solar-engine-for-the-moon/>

As puzzling as a platypus: The JWST finds some hard to categorize objects

<https://phys.org/news/2026-01-puzzling-platypus-jwst-hard-categorize.html>

Astronomers baffled by 'mysterious disruptor' with a mass of 1 million suns and a black hole for a heart

<https://www.space.com/astronomy/black-holes/astronomers-baffled-by-mysterious-disruptor-with-a-mass-of-1-million-suns-and-a-black-hole-for-a-heart>

Mercury May Not Be "Dead" After All

<https://www.universetoday.com/articles/mercury-may-not-be-dead-after-all>

Hundreds of new 'anomalies' in Hubble data defy explanation

<https://www.livescience.com/space/astronomy/ai-tool-reveals-hundreds-of-anomalies-in-hubble-telescope-archives-and-some-defy-classification>

Former astronaut on lunar spacesuits: "I don't think they're great right now"

<https://arstechnica.com/space/2026/01/former-astronaut-on-lunar-spacesuits-i-dont-think-theyre-great-right-now/>

Trump's FCC Just Handed Musk a Major Win, but Scientists Are Warning of an 'Orbital House of Cards'

<https://www.cnet.com/home/internet/i-spoke-to-astrophysicists-about-starlinks-expansion-heres-the-doomsday-scenario-keeping-them-up-at-night/>

Thomas Edison May Have Created a Miracle Material Before Physics Knew It Existed

<https://scitechdaily.com/thomas-edison-may-have-created-a-miracle-material-before-physics-knew-it-existed/>

If asteroid YR4 hits our Moon, it'll cause a bright flash and meteors as debris hits Earth, say scientists

<https://www.skyatnightmagazine.com/news/effects-asteroid-2024-yr4-hitting-moon>

Is time a fundamental part of reality? A quiet revolution in physics suggests not

<https://phys.org/news/2026-01-fundamental-reality-quiet-revolution-physics.html>

NASA's Juno spacecraft spots the largest volcanic eruption ever seen on Jupiter's moon Io

<https://www.space.com/astronomy/jupiter/nasas-juno-spacecraft-spots-the-largest-volcanic-eruption-ever-seen-on-jupiters-moon-io>

A potentially habitable new planet has been discovered 146 light-years away – but it may be -70C

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2026/jan/29/a-potentially-habitable-new-planet-has-been-discovered-146-light-years-away-from-earth-but-it-may-be--70c>

Astronomers watch 1st black hole ever imaged launch a 3,000-light-year-long cosmic jet from its glowing 'shadow'

<https://www.space.com/astronomy/black-holes/astronomers-watch-1st-black-hole-ever-imaged-launch-a-3-000-light-year-long-cosmic-jet-from-its-glowing-shadow>

Mysterious dark matter seen in new high-resolution map of distant galaxies

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/dark-matter-map-distant-galaxies/>

James Webb Space Telescope sees comet-seeding crystals flowing far from newborn star

<https://www.space.com/astronomy/james-webb-space-telescope/james-webb-space-telescope-sees-comet-seeding-crystals-flowing-far-from-newborn-star-photo>

Earth's Lower Orbit Could Rapidly Collapse, Scientists Warn

<https://futurism.com/space/earths-lower-orbit-rapidly-collapse>

Super-Earth exoplanets may have built-in magnetic protection from churning magma — and that's good news for life

<https://www.space.com/astronomy/exoplanets/super-earth-exoplanets-may-have-built-in-magnetic-protection-from-churning-magma-and-thats-good-news-for-life>

Magnetic avalanches on the sun reveal the hidden engine powering solar flares

<https://www.space.com/astronomy/sun/magnetic-avalanches-european-sun-watching-probe-unveils-the-central-engine-of-a-flare>

Another Earth or a blip in the data? We may never find out

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/another-earth-or-a-blip-in-the-data-we-may-never-find-out/>

NASA stresses ISS crew safety as it gears up for next astronaut launch

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/nasa-stresses-iss-crew-safety-as-it-gears-up-for-next-astronaut-launch/>

Environment, Climate Change and Alternative Energy Sources

Scripps Scientists in Antarctica Studying Retreating Glaciers, Cancer-Fighting Microbes and More
<https://today.ucsd.edu/story/scripps-scientists-in-antarctica-studying-retreating-glaciers-cancer-fighting-microbes-and-more>

How topological surfaces boost clean energy catalysts
<https://phys.org/news/2026-01-topological-surfaces-boost-energy-catalysts.html>

Strategic tree planting could help Canada become carbon neutral by mid-century
<https://phys.org/news/2026-01-strategic-tree-canada-carbon-neutral.html>

Biological, Genetics and Medical Sciences

Egypt partnership targets African biotech academy

<https://www.scidev.net/global/news/egypt-partnership-targets-african-biotech-academy/>

Walking sharks break biology reproduction rules

<https://phys.org/news/2026-01-sharks-biology-reproduction.html>

Complex building blocks of life form spontaneously in space, research reveals

<https://phys.org/news/2026-01-complex-blocks-life-spontaneously-space.html>

UN treaty to protect 'extraordinary' marine life due to come into force

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/1/16/un-treaty-to-protect-extraordinary-marine-life-due-to-come-into-force>

Great White Sharks Grow Deadly New Types of Teeth as They Age

<https://www.sciencealert.com/great-white-sharks-grow-deadly-new-types-of-teeth-as-they-age>

Scientists solve the mystery of why termite kings and queens are monogamous

<https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/1114509>

New light-based nanotechnology could enable more precise, less harmful cancer treatment

<https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/1114635>

Muscle stem cells build resilience but lose regenerative power with age

<https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/1114650>

Scientists uncover why some brain cells resist Alzheimer's disease

<https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/1114676>

Other

Chung-Ang University scientists generate electricity using Tesla turbine-inspired structure
<https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/1114341>

Additional Informational

Perspectives from the Indus: Contexts of interaction in the Late Harappan/Post-Urban period
https://www.harappa.com/content/perspectives-indus-contexts-interaction-late-harappanpost-urban-period?fbclid=IwdGRzaAPaIxVjbGNrA9ojQmV4dG4DYWVtAjExAHNydgMGYXBwX2IkDDM1MDY4NTUzMTcyOAABHom0GPwhqN0Xjh13jmOi5MZgyvoBzmT6OJ1L-BF632Je6bPIBcHb_glpI8vm_aem_QJFXV6amfKStgAF8Stjwow&sfnsn=mo

Beyond the Cradle Event, Apr 8: Cambridge, MA
<https://luma.com/ryyxqq15>

NIH Announces Major Policy Shift to End Use of Human Fetal Tissue in NIH-Supported Research
<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-announces-major-policy-shift-end-use-human-fetal-tissue-nih-supported-research>

IMAP and the shape of the heliosphere
https://www.planetary.org/planetary-radio/2026-imap?utm_campaign=downlink&utm_medium=email&utm_source=20260116&s_src=downlink&s_subsrc=20260116

NASA's Pandora Satellite Acquires Signal
<https://www.nasa.gov/blogs/smallsatellites/2026/01/12/nasas-pandora-satellite-acquires-signal/>

NASA, Department of Energy to Develop Lunar Surface Reactor by 2030
<https://www.nasa.gov/news-release/nasa-department-of-energy-to-develop-lunar-surface-reactor-by-2030/>

Artemis II and III: The science that brings us back to the Moon
https://www.planetary.org/planetary-radio/artemis-ii-and-iii-the-science-that-brings-us-back-to-the-moon?utm_campaign=downlink&utm_medium=email&utm_source=20260130&s_src=downlink&s_subsrc=20260130

The next chapter begins: Announcing my new role with The Planetary Society
https://www.planetary.org/articles/the-next-chapter-begins?utm_campaign=downlink&utm_medium=email&utm_source=20260130&s_src=downlink&s_subsrc=20260130

Synchronized Eruptions on Io: Possible Evidence of Interconnected Subsurface Magma Reservoirs
<https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1029/2025JE009047>

NASA Finds Lunar Regolith Limits Meteorites as Source of Earth's Water
<https://science.nasa.gov/science-research/astromaterials/nasa-finds-lunar-regolith-limits-meteorites-as-source-of-earths-water/>

NASA Reveals New Details About Dark Matter's Influence on Universe
<https://www.nasa.gov/missions/webb/nasa-reveals-new-details-about-dark-matters-influence-on-universe/>

NASA Updates Artemis II Wet Dress Rehearsal, Launch Opportunities
<https://www.nasa.gov/blogs/missions/2026/01/30/nasa-updates-artemis-ii-wet-dress-rehearsal-launch-opportunities/>

Rakhigarhi excavation report new

https://www.academia.edu/24830219/Rakhigarhi_excavation_report_new?fbclid=IwdGRzaAPrvo_hjbGNrA-u-rWV4dG4DYWVtAjExAHNydGMGYXBwX2IkDDM1MDY4NTUzMTcyOAABHtsfcevGhCZexhjjDgvonJKevlj2FC00EVt6y7lksmtWpS6yBV-7vodhBm7_aem_xBSDPNq-baz8DtyXT_UhUw&sfnsn=mo

Rock art from at least 67,800 years ago in Sulawesi

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-025-09968-y>

International Science Council Newsletter

<https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?e=725b365f54&u=2e9b648776114e2888e7ea8c5&id=319ca9c462>

Indigenous knowledge in transdisciplinary research and education: Experiences from Africa Webinar, March 4

<https://council.science/events/indigenous-knowledge-transdisciplinary-africa/>

WWII Italian Ship's Wheel Returned to Italy at Ambassador's Residence

<https://www.monumentsmenandwomenfnd.org/post/wwii-ships-wheel-returned-to-italy>