

Weekly Science Report

May 1, 2026

“When words are both true and kind, they can change the world.”

Buddha

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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

'Kraken' fossils show enormous, intelligent octopuses were top predators in Cretaceous seas
https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/kraken-fossils-show-enormous-intelligent-octopuses-were-top-predators-in-cretaceous-seas/?utm_campaign=sprinklr&utm_medium=social&utm_source=linkedin

Neanderthal Kids Grew Up So Fast—at Least Compared With Their Human Peers—Thanks to Genetic Adaptations to Their Environment
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/neanderthal-kids-grew-up-so-fast-at-least-compared-to-their-human-peers-thanks-to-genetic-adaptations-to-their-environment-180988583/>

700,000-Year-Old Tools from Spain Reveal North African Influence
<https://greekreporter.com/2026/04/22/stone-tools-reveal-north-africas-early-human-influence/>

Why did Clovis toolmakers choose difficult quartz crystal? New study offers clues
<https://phys.org/news/2026-04-clovis-toolmakers-difficult-quartz-crystal.html>

Neanderthals' brains weren't to blame for their demise, new study suggests
<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/neanderthals/neanderthals-brains-werent-to-blame-for-their-demise-new-study-suggests>

Pioneers of Lakefront Living
<https://archaeology.org/issues/may-june-2026/features/pioneers-of-lakefront-living/>

Neolithic Bread Wheat Identified in the South Caucasus
<https://archaeology.org/news/2026/05/01/neolithic-bread-wheat-identified-in-the-south-caucasus/>

Evolution has reused the same genes for 120 million years, study shows
<https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/1126183>

'He began to cry, and almost fell to the floor': The fluffy fossil that finally showed the world that birds are dinosaurs
<https://www.livescience.com/animals/dinosaurs/he-began-to-cry-and-almost-fell-to-the-floor-the-fluffy-fossil-that-finally-showed-the-world-that-birds-are-dinosaurs>

Dinosaurs may have originated 10 million years earlier than fossils show
<https://phys.org/news/2026-04-dinosaurs-million-years-earlier-fossils.html>

Locked in stone for 210 million years, this newly identified crocodile cousin was built to crush larger prey
<https://phys.org/news/2026-04-stone-million-years-newly-crocodile.html>

Reconstruction of the teeth discovered in Stajnia Cave and analysed in this study
<https://www.eurekalert.org/multimedia/1126315>

7,500-Year-Old Skull Thought To Be A Rare Human-Neanderthal Hybrid Turns Out To Be Something Far Less Mysterious
<https://indiandefencereview.com/neanderthal-hybrid-turns-less-mysterious/>

Ancient DNA Study Reveals Mysterious 5,000-Year Population Collapse in Neolithic Europe
<https://arkeonews.net/ancient-dna-study-reveals-mysterious-5000-year-population-collapse-in-neolithic-europe/>

History

UK schoolboys' fatal hike remembered in Black Forest 90 years on

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/apr/25/uk-schoolboys-fatal-hike-black-forest-germany-anniversary?CMP=fb_gu&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwY2xjawRjM2Bl eHRuA2FibQlxMABicmlkETFrN2UxRXFVeHI6a1I1NUpCc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODlwMDg5MgABHnx_h5SnOjEef3ZbWDFSzLfxX6ny2f-203dAzYPBGqhJ7G3OhEdkJ6M4A2qL_aem_Wrf4641Kj-YGmGBOFmGEXA#Echobox=1777104383

Read a book, flip off a Nazi: when reading meant resistance – in pictures

https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/gallery/2026/apr/28/reading-under-fire-arming-minds-hearts-during-wartime-poster-house-exhibit?CMP=fb_gu&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwY2xjawRjMjBleHRu A2FibQlxMABicmlkETFrN2UxRXFVeHI6a1I1NUpCc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODlw MDg5MgABHmYMi3sWYBkgZucEzGqbPHjzjRWQ5gVI73fjzKWRPT5iplbR7fsJL-ond2F_aem_oB6HcuT7jHLvDZ1rtLnqwQ#Echobox=1777373569

Art exhibition shines light on Romani persecution during Holocaust

https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/art-exhibition-shines-light-on-romani-persecution-during-holocaust?fbclid=IwY2xjawRjmmNleHRuA2FibQlxMABicmlkETFzNXI3bXBV/khLYmVORVJxc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODlwMDg5MgABHn7XHSNU45c5ENF3wXBZWZRUUpJWTGpSOqjbFCJZZjhA1pkdJhRyWyoFaWalx_aem_SShATFVev3MduvFUuQ3M9A

Kansas educators wrestle with teaching about John Brown as schools face scrutiny on race

https://www.kcur.org/politics-elections-and-government/2026-04-21/was-abolitionist-john-brown-a-hero-or-a-menace-in-kansas-the-question-still-matters?utm_source=npr.org&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=national_highlight&utm_content=homepage

Pope criticizes colonization of Africa's minerals as he arrives in Equatorial Guinea

<https://apnews.com/article/africa-pope-equatorial-guinea-0134a6982c295c125259c5fa4eb73395>

Did AI just solve the mystery of one of El Greco's most enigmatic paintings?

https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/did-ai-just-solve-the-mystery-of-one-of-el-grecos-most-enigmatic-paintings/?utm_campaign=sprinklr&utm_medium=social&utm_source=linkedin

Archaeology

Canadian woman shot dead in Mexico, authorities say

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/canadian-woman-fatally-shot-mexico-9.7170773>

This small sea area between Europe and Africa is the site of 124 shipwrecks, archaeologists find

https://www.cnn.com/2026/04/22/science/shipwrecks-algeciras-gibraltar-intl-scli?Date=20260422&Profile=cnn&utm_content=1776866860&utm_medium=social&utm_source=hreads&fbclid=IwY2xjawRWTjRleHRuA2F1bQIxMABicmlkETFFVWE0dG5jWk9OM2hmNIZ5c3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHuyVIF2yhriQjKxLwBvagfhSEKk3Do5MtEvTzklYqvjhZ0pqbg5bWTfqdo-L_aem_qX7-326drgYyBBFNHyAeFw

Mexico to beef up security at tourist sites after shooting at pyramids

<https://www.npr.org/2026/04/22/g-s1-118305/mexico-to-beef-up-security-at-tourist-sites>

Antiquities from US collection returned to Greece

<https://www.ekathimerini.com/culture/1301502/antiquities-from-us-collection-returned-to-greece/>

Buyer beware: fakes, forgeries and fraudsters in Myanmar

<https://www.newmandala.org/buyer-beware-fakes-forgeries-and-fraudsters-in-myanmar/>

700-year-old mummy from Bolivia contains earliest confirmed evidence of strep throat bacteria in the Americas

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/americas/700-year-old-mummy-from-bolivia-contains-earliest-confirmed-evidence-of-strep-throat-bacteria-in-the-americas>

Imported Silver and Medicinal Drink Identified in Etruscan Tomb

<https://archaeology.org/news/2026/04/20/imported-silver-and-medicinal-drink-identified-in-etruscan-tomb/>

New Archaeological Discoveries Reveal How San Antonio's Earliest Settlers Irrigated Crops and Accessed Drinking Water

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/new-archaeological-discoveries-reveal-how-san-antonio-colonists-irrigated-crops-and-accessed-drinking-water-180988571/>

Archaeological digs in Amazon provide clues about Indigenous inhabitants before colonization

<https://phys.org/news/2026-04-archaeological-amazon-clues-indigenous-inhabitants.html>

1,900-year-old souvenir cup featuring Hadrian's Wall and Roman forts discovered in Spain

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/romans/1-900-year-old-souvenir-cup-featuring-hadrians-wall-and-roman-forts-discovered-in-spain>

A 13-Year-Old Boy Found This Bronze Coin in a Field. It Turned Out to Be the First Ancient Greek Artifact Discovered in Berlin

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/a-13-year-old-boy-found-this-bronze-coin-in-a-field-it-turned-out-to-be-the-first-ancient-greek-artifact-discovered-in-berlin-180988627/>

'Lifelong monogamy' and 'half orphans': DNA analysis reveals clues about life on the Roman frontier after the fall of Rome

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/lifelong-monogamy-and-half-orphans-dna-analysis-reveals-clues-about-life-on-the-roman-frontier-after-the-fall-of-rome>

Oldest burial in Patagonia reveals early human settlement along South America's Atlantic coast

<https://phys.org/news/2026-04-oldest-burial-patagonia-reveals-early.html>

Ancient Builders Mastered Dolomitic Lime Plaster 8,000 Years Before the Romans
<https://greekreporter.com/2026/04/30/ancient-builders-dolomitic-lime-plaster-before-romans/>

Researchers Discovered a Lost Copy of the Oldest English Poem, Composed by an Illiterate Cowherd More Than 1,300 Years Ago
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/researchers-discovered-a-lost-copy-of-the-oldest-english-poem-composed-by-an-illiterate-cowherd-more-than-1300-years-ago-180988644/>

Ancient Shamash Gate in Nineveh Reveals Two Battles 2,500 Years Apart
<https://greekreporter.com/2026/04/30/shamash-gate-ancient-nineveh-battles/>

The Unexpected World of the Odyssey
<https://archaeology.org/collection/the-unexpected-world-of-the-odyssey/>

Buried Beneath Sand for Centuries, Archaeologists Just Found a Perfectly Preserved 2,000-Year-Old Anchor in the North Sea
<https://dailygalaxy.com/2026/04/archaeologists-found-anchor-north-sea/>

Egyptology

Egyptian mummy discovered stuffed with excerpt from 'The Iliad'

https://www.popsci.com/science/egyptian-mummy-iliad/?fbclid=IwY2xjawRjIMleHRuA2FibQIxMABicmkETFzNXI3bXBVVkhLYmVORVJxc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHvHGfGFaVviXvpLcTOzN6fGHHugNNn1xYsQ_xXRnmA2PE32I388bzelqmhIT_aem ICTo9sZAoGSsjDLgBQralQ

Archaeologists discover perfectly circular ancient Egyptian temple that may have been used for sacred water rituals

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/ancient-egyptians/archaeologists-discover-perfectly-circular-ancient-egyptian-temple-that-may-have-been-used-for-sacred-water-rituals>

General Science

National Science Foundation's future in limbo as Trump eyes cuts

<https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/5835619-future-nsf-research-limbo/>

Physics, Earth and Space Sciences

Mysterious green lights in Hawaii sky leave astronomers searching for answers

<https://kfor.com/news/mysterious-green-lights-in-hawaii-sky-leave-astronomers-searching-for-answers/>

Artemis II Crew Says Lunar Landing Doable Soon

<https://spacepolicyonline.com/news/artemis-ii-crew-says-lunar-landing-doable-soon/>

So How Did Artemis 2's Heat Shield Hold Up? The First Results Are In

<https://gizmodo.com/so-how-did-artemis-2s-heat-shield-hold-up-the-first-results-are-in-2000749198>

The Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, NASA's next great observatory, is finally complete

<https://www.space.com/space-exploration/the-nancy-grace-roman-space-telescope-nasas-next-great-observatory-is-finally-complete>

This Greek Volcano Seemed Quiet for 100,000 Years. Then It Erupted Again. Should Scientists Take a Second Look at 'Extinct' Volcanoes?

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/this-greek-volcano-seemed-quiet-for-100000-years-then-it-erupted-again-scientists-take-a-second-look-at-extinct-volcanoes-180988651/>

Yellowstone's volcano may be fueled in a very different way than we thought

<https://www.livescience.com/planet-earth/volcanoes/yellowstones-volcano-may-be-fueled-in-a-very-different-way-than-we-thought>

With eyes on future NASA moon base, Space Force launches cislunar acquisition task force

<https://breakingdefense.com/2026/04/with-eyes-on-future-nasa-moon-base-space-force-launches-cislunar-acquisition-task-force/>

NASA's Curiosity rover finds building blocks of life on Mars. Scientists aren't sure how they got there

<https://www.space.com/astronomy/mars/nasas-curiosity-rover-finds-building-blocks-of-life-on-mars-scientists-arent-sure-how-they-got-there>

In its third flight, a Blue Origin New Glenn rocket puts satellite payload into wrong orbit

https://www.cbsnews.com/news/blue-origin-new-glenn-rocket-satellite-wrong-orbit/?ftag=CNM-00-10aab6a&linkId=930566717&fbclid=IwDGRzaARSULdleHRuA2FibQIxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZAwzNTA2ODU1MzE3MjgAAR4IDuPipPSn-2nb3Rim5UFeXRbiutBUQhXtJIRydmlup2zu1JvGG4w48DvbjA_aem_06hiNLW9x7xld8wvKh1F-g&sfnsn=mo

An Out of Control SpaceX Rocket Is Going to Smash Into Moon, Astronomer Says

<https://futurism.com/space/spacex-rocket-projected-slam-into-moon>

Interstellar comet came from a much different solar system than ours

<https://www.cnn.com/2026/05/01/science/interstellar-comet-3i-atlas-deuterated-water>

SpaceX launches high-power ViaSat internet satellite in rare flight of Falcon Heavy rocket

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/spacex-launches-viasat-internet-satellite-falcon-heavy-rocket/>

DARPA selects three companies for lunar orbiter studies

<https://spacenews.com/darpa-selects-three-companies-for-lunar-orbiter-studies/>

Scientists identify 10,000 'impossible' exoplanet candidates, potentially tripling the number of known alien worlds

<https://www.livescience.com/space/exoplanets/scientists-identify-10-000-impossible-exoplanet-candidates-potentially-tripling-the-number-of-known-alien-worlds>

Artemis II astronaut Christina Koch still wobbly while adapting to gravity after moon mission

<https://www.10tv.com/article/news/nation-world/artemis-ii-astronaut-christina-koch-gravity-adapting-after-lunar-trip/507-b9f52da3-8e4f-4592-9881-62f6ce0e9155>

Largest-ever 3D map of the universe shows 47 million galaxies, from the Milky Way to 'cosmic noon'

<https://www.livescience.com/space/cosmology/largest-ever-3d-map-of-the-universe-shows-47-million-galaxies-from-the-milky-way-to-cosmic-noon-space-photo-of-the-week>

The Little Probe That Could: Why Voyager 1 Matters, and Why NASA Just Switched Part of It Off

<https://www.npr.org/2026/04/19/nx-s1-5789935/voyager-1-probe-nasa>

Artemis 2 and Tiangong space station astronauts set record for farthest distance between humans

<https://www.space.com/space-exploration/artemis/artemis-2-and-tiangong-space-station-astronauts-set-record-for-farthest-distance-between-humans>

Environment, Climate Change and Alternative Energy Sources

How rural Mass. towns are saving green by going green

https://www.wbur.org/news/2026/04/22/rural-towns-financial-savings-electric-new-england-budgets?utm_source=npr.org&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=national_highlight&utm_content=homepage

Trump canceled the National Nature Assessment. Scientists will publish it anyway

https://www.knkx.org/environment/2026-04-22/trump-canceled-national-nature-assessment-scientists-will-publish-anyway?utm_source=npr.org&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=national_highlight&utm_content=homepage

From the Himalayas to Newt Gingrich, the 'tree-huggers' prevail

<https://www.npr.org/2026/04/22/nx-s1-5787684/tree-hugger-history-earth-day>

Toxic fallout from Gulf war 'could last decades'

<https://www.scidev.net/global/news/toxic-fallout-from-gulf-war-could-last-decades/>

One million defend Argentina's glaciers after law reform

<https://www.scidev.net/global/news/one-million-defend-argentinias-glaciers-after-law-reform/>

This company says nuclear fusion could finally power the grid — and soon

https://www.cnn.com/2026/04/30/climate/nuclear-fusion-real-world-electricity-grid?Date=20260430&Profile=CNN&utm_content=1777548139&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwY2xjawRiOIxleHRuA2FbQIxMABicmlkETFmWXNzUG16U1pMMFFGdms3c3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODlwMDg5MgABHlyGJhTHRHGwJv4pojMHvWRumP7mA6RjTI4BDlihjKYRrialVaVW31EtbID_aem_Scs1F7X_ZAudj7c8deOzXA

Biological, Genetics and Medical Sciences

'It's so chaotic': Humpback whales are forming super-groups

https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20260416-the-humpback-super-groups-swarming-the-seas?ocid=fbfut&fbclid=IwY2xjawRWTbVleHRuA2FibQIxMABicmlkETFFVWE0dG5jWk9OM2hmNIZ5c3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHio8I_vKnZUh7vcbAv3Ubjka_QptGDqbDOZG8HQMh46LjXrf_ypqBi5_kf4w_aem_WpgzhzEI_nQ3rrISzZ1o2w

Gene therapy for a rare type of deafness shows lasting results

<https://www.npr.org/2026/04/22/nx-s1-5791478/gene-therapy-deafness-hearing>

Two startlingly different views on long-awaited data on America's anti-HIV efforts

<https://www.npr.org/2026/04/23/g-s1-118221/hiv-aids-pepfar-trump-foreign-aid>

Mysterious "golden orb" found in ocean depths off Alaska in 2023 is finally identified

https://www.cbsnews.com/news/golden-orb-identified-alaska-national-oceanic-atmospheric-association/?ftag=CNM-00-10aab6a&linkId=932086044&fbclid=IwY2xjawRjml9leHRuA2FibQIxMQBicmlkETFzNXI3bXBVVkhLYmVORVJxc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHsBIHKryDzHo1O7T-qq5yimiN0T9qwCZIFS6YA4FtWINQPNgv7mhgrITuBrJ_aem_BgMT58qSw92zdcuDB79r1g

Other

A portal to an ancient, invisible realm reopens in Uganda

https://www.cnn.com/travel/kasubi-tombs-ancient-kingdom-uganda?Date=20260421&Profile=CNN+International&utm_content=1776771438&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook

Medieval images may have triggered imagined soundscapes, reshaping how viewers experienced saints

<https://phys.org/news/2026-04-medieval-images-triggered-soundscapes-reshaping.html>

Additional Informational

Science Committee Democratic Staff Report Reveals Details on NASA's Illegal Implementation of Trump's FY2026 Budget Request Without Congressional Approval

<https://democrats-science.house.gov/news/press-releases/science-committee-democratic-staff-report-reveals-details-on-nasas-illegal-implementation-of-trumps-fy2026-budget-request-without-congressional-approval>

ExoMars Rosalind Franklin rover

https://www.planetary.org/space-missions/exomars-rover?utm_campaign=downlink&utm_medium=email&utm_source=20260424&s_src=downlink&s_subsrc=20260424

NASA Welcomes Latvia as Newest Artemis Accords Signatory

<https://www.nasa.gov/news-release/nasa-welcomes-latvia-as-newest-artemis-accords-signatory/>

NASA Kennedy Center Director Announces Plans to Retire

<https://www.nasa.gov/news-release/nasa-kennedy-center-director-announces-plans-to-retire/>

NASA Fires Up Powerful Lithium-Fed Thruster for Trips to Mars

<https://www.nasa.gov/missions/tech-demonstration/nasa-fires-up-powerful-lithium-fed-thruster-for-trips-to-mars/>

CSUN Prof's Research Shows Lack of Genetic Diversity May Have Contributed to Neanderthals' Disappearance

<https://newsroom.csun.edu/2026/04/14/csun-profs-research-shows-lack-of-genetic-diversity-may-have-contributed-to-neanderthals-disappearance/>

NASA on Track for Future Missions with Initial Artemis II Assessments

<https://www.nasa.gov/missions/nasa-on-track-for-future-missions-with-initial-artemis-ii-assessments/>