

# Weekly Science Report

May 15, 2026

**“Archaeology gives us the power to ask questions of the past and of ourselves, about how we got here, what our values are, and the tools to choose whether and how we bring them forward with us into the future.”**

Dr. Marcy Rockman

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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

Scientists Have One Big Question After Reconstructing A 3.7 Million-Year-Old Face  
<https://www.bgr.com/2161182/scientist-reconstruct-3-million-year-old-face-little-foot/>

Neanderthals may have drilled out a cavity 59,000 years ago  
[https://www.npr.org/2026/05/13/nx-s1-5815047/neanderthal-tooth-dentistry-cavity-drill?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_term=nprnews&utm\\_source=facebook.com&utm\\_campaign=npr](https://www.npr.org/2026/05/13/nx-s1-5815047/neanderthal-tooth-dentistry-cavity-drill?utm_medium=social&utm_term=nprnews&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=npr)

A lost ancient script reveals how writing as we know it really began  
[https://www.newscientist.com/article/2524042-a-lost-ancient-script-reveals-how-writing-as-we-know-it-really-began/?utm\\_term=Autofeed&utm\\_campaign=echobox&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwdGRzaARtY7ZleHRuA2F1bQixMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZAwzNTA2ODU1MzE3MjgAA R4-YHAqwwpeytXX-imuHX9qA3QYBN0N1BSXEAZFe9MruhPAI82wtzCvhlGz8w\\_aem\\_PHZNaGu-d-vGd9zdwxtkGg&utm\\_id=97757\\_v0\\_s02\\_e224\\_tv2\\_tp1\\_a1demo0ecg7rma&sfnsn=mo](https://www.newscientist.com/article/2524042-a-lost-ancient-script-reveals-how-writing-as-we-know-it-really-began/?utm_term=Autofeed&utm_campaign=echobox&utm_medium=social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwdGRzaARtY7ZleHRuA2F1bQixMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZAwzNTA2ODU1MzE3MjgAA R4-YHAqwwpeytXX-imuHX9qA3QYBN0N1BSXEAZFe9MruhPAI82wtzCvhlGz8w_aem_PHZNaGu-d-vGd9zdwxtkGg&utm_id=97757_v0_s02_e224_tv2_tp1_a1demo0ecg7rma&sfnsn=mo)

Early Humans Returned to This Pyrenees Cave for 2,000 Years and Left Bones, Hearths, and Rare Jewelry  
<https://www.discovermagazine.com/early-humans-returned-to-this-pyrenees-cave-for-2-000-years-and-left-bones-hearths-and-rare-jewelry-49051>

Modern experiments suggest rhino teeth may have been part of Neanderthal toolkits  
<https://phys.org/news/2026-05-modern-rhino-teeth-neanderthal-toolkits.html>

Cut marks on 1.6 million-year-old bones reveal early humans moved prized meat  
<https://phys.org/news/2026-05-million-year-bones-reveal-early.html>

Reanalysis of Northern Australian Stone Tools Pushes Back Heat Treatments by 20,000 Years  
<https://archaeology.org/news/2026/05/11/reanalysis-of-northern-australian-stone-tools-pushes-back-heat-treatments-by-20000-years/>

Homo erectus genetic material sequenced for the first time, and it shows 'deep genetic links' with modern humans  
<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/human-evolution/homo-erectus-genetic-material-sequenced-for-the-first-time-and-it-shows-deep-genetic-links-with-modern-humans>

Study Finds Early Humans May Have Relied on Portable Containers as Far Back as 500,000 Years Ago  
<https://www.sciencenewstoday.org/study-finds-early-humans-may-have-relied-on-portable-containers-as-far-back-as-500000-years-ago>

New Evidence Suggests Humans Rode Horses 6,000 Years Ago, Far Earlier Than Previously Thought  
<https://greekreporter.com/2026/05/14/humans-ride-horses-earlier/>

'Last titan': Southeast Asia's biggest dinosaur discovered  
<https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/1127693>

## History

Remains of US airman missing since second world war laid to rest in Florida

[https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/may/05/airman-missing-ww2-florida?CMP=fb\\_gu&utm\\_medium=Social&utm\\_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwY2xjawRs3sZleHRuA2F1bQlxMABicmlkETFMQk1SczllaDJhbHINQVuc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHqxb8B38qL8PG9Ph\\_FzhaLT2ZyVtif2yvZmhXwCs4nSN64jEVKNicXLWQ9FF\\_aem\\_lkF306qqaYC-klo9BecudA#Echobox=1777973882](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/may/05/airman-missing-ww2-florida?CMP=fb_gu&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwY2xjawRs3sZleHRuA2F1bQlxMABicmlkETFMQk1SczllaDJhbHINQVuc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHqxb8B38qL8PG9Ph_FzhaLT2ZyVtif2yvZmhXwCs4nSN64jEVKNicXLWQ9FF_aem_lkF306qqaYC-klo9BecudA#Echobox=1777973882)

The man who blew up a nuclear power station and disappeared

[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/may/05/the-man-who-blew-up-a-nuclear-power-station-koeberg-south-africa?CMP=fb\\_gu&utm\\_medium=Social&utm\\_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwY2xjawRs4CNleHRuA2F1bQlxMABicmlkETFMQk1SczllaDJhbHINQVuc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHl0iMaXkZDzg8uRUfVAIYokdICedROn5PguOzC\\_xZLZkTge0CC-xM9iheU2m\\_aem\\_kOb4RmvgktoviAxesHbrFw#Echobox=1777987380](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/may/05/the-man-who-blew-up-a-nuclear-power-station-koeberg-south-africa?CMP=fb_gu&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwY2xjawRs4CNleHRuA2F1bQlxMABicmlkETFMQk1SczllaDJhbHINQVuc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHl0iMaXkZDzg8uRUfVAIYokdICedROn5PguOzC_xZLZkTge0CC-xM9iheU2m_aem_kOb4RmvgktoviAxesHbrFw#Echobox=1777987380)

Switzerland to open secret files on Auschwitz 'Angel of Death' Mengele

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cgipyqjj8y4o>

The Unexpected World of the Odyssey

<https://archaeology.org/collection/the-unexpected-world-of-the-odyssey/>

The Last Maya Kingdom

<https://archaeology.org/issues/may-june-2026/features/the-last-maya-kingdom/>

History Remembers Mary Boleyn as the Scandalous 'Other Boleyn Girl.' New Research Debunks the Myths Surrounding the Tudor Mistress

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/history-remembers-mary-boleyn-as-the-scandalous-other-boleyn-girl-new-research-debunks-the-myths-surrounding-the-tudor-mistress-180988703/>

Born and Raised in Philadelphia, This Loyalist Fled to England During the American Revolution. In His Absence, the Patriots Declared Him a Traitor and Seized His Property

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/born-and-raised-in-philadelphia-this-loyalist-fled-to-england-during-the-american-revolution-in-his-absence-the-patriots-declared-him-a-traitor-and-seized-his-property-180988705/>

## Archaeology

Oldest astronomical observatory in the Americas discovered in Peru

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2026/04/30/ancient-astronomical-observatory-peru>

Mysterious green rocks in Pyrenees cave hint that prehistoric people were working copper there for 4,000 years

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/mysterious-green-rocks-in-pyrenees-cave-hint-that-prehistoric-people-were-working-copper-there-for-4-000-years>

Have archaeologists found the long-lost Maya city of Sac Balam?

[https://www.science.org/content/article/have-archaeologists-found-long-lost-maya-city-sac-balam?utm\\_campaign=News+from+Science&utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_medium=ownedSocial&fbclid=IwY2xjawRs3rFleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFmQk1SczllaDJhbHINQVVuc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHIQg2OBkEj9TjIS3CH3tLihhLklot45QDFouK1QcgleEQOO\\_fE5uHDuMKAHt\\_aem\\_WQRFerrR484qDx-XtPFleA](https://www.science.org/content/article/have-archaeologists-found-long-lost-maya-city-sac-balam?utm_campaign=News+from+Science&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=ownedSocial&fbclid=IwY2xjawRs3rFleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFmQk1SczllaDJhbHINQVVuc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHIQg2OBkEj9TjIS3CH3tLihhLklot45QDFouK1QcgleEQOO_fE5uHDuMKAHt_aem_WQRFerrR484qDx-XtPFleA)

'Speculation' and 'egregious failure': 30 researchers publish scathing critiques of study that questioned date of early human occupation of Monte Verde in Chile

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/americas/speculation-and-egregious-failure-30-researchers-publish-scathing-critiques-of-study-that-questioned-date-of-early-human-occupation-of-monte-verde-in-chile>

4,000-year-old tablets reveal magic spells, kings feared, and a beer receipt

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2026/05/260504023848.htm>

Divers Discover the Shipwreck of a World War I-Era Coast Guard Cutter, Which Vanished With 131 Sailors on Board in 1918

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/divers-discover-the-shipwreck-of-a-world-war-i-era-coast-guard-cutter-which-vanished-with-131-sailors-on-board-in-1918-180988676/>

DNA Solves a 166-Year Mystery From the Doomed Franklin Expedition With Four New Identifications

<https://www.sciencenewstoday.org/dna-finally-identifies-four-more-franklin-expedition-sailors-lost-in-the-arctic>

We found hundreds of huge ancient mass graves hidden in the Sahara desert

[https://phys.org/news/2026-05-hundreds-huge-ancient-mass-graves.html#google\\_vignette](https://phys.org/news/2026-05-hundreds-huge-ancient-mass-graves.html#google_vignette)

Has the mystery of the Tepantitla mural finally been solved?

[https://www.heritagedaily.com/2026/05/has-the-mystery-of-the-tepantitla-mural-finally-been-solved/158087#google\\_vignette](https://www.heritagedaily.com/2026/05/has-the-mystery-of-the-tepantitla-mural-finally-been-solved/158087#google_vignette)

Satellite Imagery Reveals Monumental Tombs in Sudan's Atbai Desert

<https://archaeology.org/news/2026/05/15/satellite-imagery-reveals-monumental-tombs-in-sudans-atbai-desert/>

Mysterious Ancient Tunnel Discovered Beneath Jerusalem Streets

<https://archaeology.org/news/2026/05/15/mysterious-ancient-tunnel-discovered-beneath-jerusalem-streets/>

8-year-old African American boy from Colonial Maryland found buried with white Colonists, and it's unclear if he was enslaved

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/americas/8-year-old-african-american-boy-from-colonial-maryland-found-buried-with-white-colonists-and-its-unclear-if-he-was-enslaved>

## Egyptology

New discoveries at Dra Abu El-Naga in Luxor revealing new titles that have never shown before  
<https://english.ahram.org.eg/News/567988.aspx>

General Science

Nothing to Report

## Physics, Earth and Space Sciences

Astronomers believe they've detected an atmosphere around a tiny, icy world beyond Pluto

[https://apnews.com/article/pluto-atmosphere-kuiper-belt-c6b0ec2e0631f47c25ce18479b14e1ed?utm\\_campaign=trueAnthem\\_manual&utm\\_medium=trueAnthem&utm\\_source=facebook&fbclid=IwY2xjawRmM6lleHRuA2FibQlxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjIwMzIxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEexhDL3YpTv00z6wo5x8lo\\_wQFgGDDz5U1f6BJAJmrcvfL-wQYZHUS10AMYhl\\_aem\\_7D\\_vPJC8SRCOL6sXIVbDMw](https://apnews.com/article/pluto-atmosphere-kuiper-belt-c6b0ec2e0631f47c25ce18479b14e1ed?utm_campaign=trueAnthem_manual&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwY2xjawRmM6lleHRuA2FibQlxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjIwMzIxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEexhDL3YpTv00z6wo5x8lo_wQFgGDDz5U1f6BJAJmrcvfL-wQYZHUS10AMYhl_aem_7D_vPJC8SRCOL6sXIVbDMw)

ISS module cracking still unresolved despite stopping air leaks

<https://spacenews.com/iss-module-cracking-still-unresolved-despite-stopping-air-leaks/>

House Appropriations Subcommittee Clears NASA Bill on Party-Line Vote

<https://spacepolicyonline.com/news/house-appropriations-subcommittee-clears-nasa-bill-on-party-line-vote/>

Explosion Reported on Site as SpaceX Prepares Starship for Another Launch

<https://futurism.com/space/explosion-spacex-prepares-starship-launch>

Watch NASA's Curiosity Rover Struggle to Break Loose From a Rock on Mars

<https://gizmodo.com/watch-nasas-curiosity-struggle-to-break-loose-from-a-rock-on-mars-2000755142>

Space junk falls to Earth faster when sunspots peak, reshaping satellite collision forecasts

[https://phys.org/news/2026-04-space-junk-falls-earth-faster.html#google\\_vignette](https://phys.org/news/2026-04-space-junk-falls-earth-faster.html#google_vignette)

Europe's 1st reusable spacecraft 'Space Rider' clears key hurdles on the road to launch

<https://www.space.com/space-exploration/launches-spacecraft/europes-1st-reusable-spacecraft-space-rider-clears-key-hurdles-on-the-road-to-launch>

Nasa brought crashing down to earth as budget threat follows lunar success

[https://www.theguardian.com/science/2026/may/03/nasa-budget-science-trump-isaacman?utm\\_term=Autofeed&CMP=fb\\_us&utm\\_medium=Social&utm\\_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwDGRzaARkw4JjbGNrBGTDpWV4dG4DYWVtAjExAHNydGMGYXBwX2IkDDM1MDY4NTUzMTCyOAABHhy8AakDgSMP-IX1bL8R\\_TxIGTBR85E3Xx4Hpvhw5SrB6DB3vEJCLBBxPi5K\\_aem\\_rDBLxhNup66Ai7fpTqZNOw&sfnsn=mo](https://www.theguardian.com/science/2026/may/03/nasa-budget-science-trump-isaacman?utm_term=Autofeed&CMP=fb_us&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwDGRzaARkw4JjbGNrBGTDpWV4dG4DYWVtAjExAHNydGMGYXBwX2IkDDM1MDY4NTUzMTCyOAABHhy8AakDgSMP-IX1bL8R_TxIGTBR85E3Xx4Hpvhw5SrB6DB3vEJCLBBxPi5K_aem_rDBLxhNup66Ai7fpTqZNOw&sfnsn=mo)

The Satellite Trash Surrounding Earth Is One Bad Solar Storm Away From Disaster

[https://www.vice.com/en/article/the-satellite-trash-surrounding-earth-is-one-bad-solar-storm-away-from-disaster/?fbclid=IwY2xjawRtvW5leHRuA2FibQlxMABicmlkETE3dks4bTA5aUkwdUlsTHdzc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHnWqmqzZdbwrjZdaybN0FaoUEBy3K334IIUJ3pZidxOk4DIx9ZI8kYq6JxVvI\\_aem\\_F5YmK0mh0v2Bkkm-DAhXKg](https://www.vice.com/en/article/the-satellite-trash-surrounding-earth-is-one-bad-solar-storm-away-from-disaster/?fbclid=IwY2xjawRtvW5leHRuA2FibQlxMABicmlkETE3dks4bTA5aUkwdUlsTHdzc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHnWqmqzZdbwrjZdaybN0FaoUEBy3K334IIUJ3pZidxOk4DIx9ZI8kYq6JxVvI_aem_F5YmK0mh0v2Bkkm-DAhXKg)

China's Tianzhou 10 freighter delivers 7 tons of cargo to Tiangong space station

<https://www.space.com/space-exploration/launches-spacecraft/chinas-tianzhou-10-freighter-delivers-7-tons-of-cargo-to-tiangong-space-station>

Surrounded by stardust: Antarctic ice cores confirm Earth is accumulating iron-60 from local interstellar cloud

<https://phys.org/news/2026-05-stardust-antarctic-ice-cores-earth.html>

New spacecraft will watch Earth's shield take the hit as solar storms come roaring in

[https://phys.org/news/2026-05-spacecraft-earth-shield-solar-storms.html#google\\_vignette](https://phys.org/news/2026-05-spacecraft-earth-shield-solar-storms.html#google_vignette)

This startup wants to make drugs in orbit. If it succeeds, it could transform the space economy  
<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/this-startup-wants-to-make-drugs-in-orbit-if-it-succeeds-it-could-transform-the-space-economy/>

'I heard gasps' and 'oh my God': Artemis II astronauts reveal inside story of their mind-bending solar eclipse  
<https://www.livescience.com/space/space-exploration/i-heard-gasps-and-oh-my-god-artemis-ii-astronauts-reveal-inside-story-of-their-mind-bending-solar-eclipse>

Scientists discover hidden “brakes” that stop massive earthquakes  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2026/05/260515233325.htm>

## Environment, Climate Change and Alternative Energy Sources

Why this tribe is buying up hundreds of acres of farmland — and flooding it

<https://www.npr.org/2026/05/03/nx-s1-5806062/washington-tribe-restore-wetlands-fish>

Scientists May Have Solved Two of Fusion Energy's Biggest Problems at Once

<https://scitechdaily.com/scientists-may-have-solved-two-of-fusion-energys-biggest-problems-at-once/>

## Biological, Genetics and Medical Sciences

Precision DNA editing targets root cause of severe childhood epilepsy in preclinical study  
<https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/1128135>

New review confirms alcohol causes dozens of health harms, some reversible  
<https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/1126901>

Wearable polygraph detects hidden stress  
<https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/1127540>

New McMaster-made drug candidate shows promise as a brain cancer treatment  
<https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/1128173>

Scientists discover 'holy grail' of genes that could regrow human limbs, living tissue  
<https://nypost.com/2026/05/16/us-news/scientists-find-the-holy-grail-of-genes-that-could-regrow-human-limbs/>

## Other

Bright lights and hot orbs: UFO files shed light on sightings but leave interpretation to the public  
[https://apnews.com/article/trump-ufos-uap-aliens-pentagon-records-investigation-3e658d2cf3742465127c0049c872240a?utm\\_campaign=TrueAnthem&utm\\_medium=AP&utm\\_source=Facebook](https://apnews.com/article/trump-ufos-uap-aliens-pentagon-records-investigation-3e658d2cf3742465127c0049c872240a?utm_campaign=TrueAnthem&utm_medium=AP&utm_source=Facebook)

## Additional Informational

U.S. Department of Defense, UAP Encounters Website

<https://www.war.gov/UFO/>

How do things in space get their names?

[https://www.planetary.org/articles/how-do-things-in-space-get-their-names?utm\\_campaign=downlink&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=20260508&s\\_src=downlink&s\\_subsrc=20260508](https://www.planetary.org/articles/how-do-things-in-space-get-their-names?utm_campaign=downlink&utm_medium=email&utm_source=20260508&s_src=downlink&s_subsrc=20260508)

International Science Council Newsletter

<https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?e=725b365f54&u=2e9b648776114e2888e7ea8c5&id=fd12eff905>

The Planetary Society's Casey Dreier and Jack Kiraly Receive 2026 Harold Masursky Award from the American Astronomical Society's Division of Planetary Sciences

[https://www.planetary.org/press-releases/dreier-and-kiraly-masursky-award?utm\\_campaign=downlink&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=20260508&s\\_src=downlink&s\\_subsrc=20260508](https://www.planetary.org/press-releases/dreier-and-kiraly-masursky-award?utm_campaign=downlink&utm_medium=email&utm_source=20260508&s_src=downlink&s_subsrc=20260508)

Artemis II Photo Gallery

<https://eol.jsc.nasa.gov/SearchPhotos/ShowQueryResults-Table.pl?results=1778154845127922>

Responsible Investment in the Space Sector: A Guide to Stewardship for Sustainable Value Creation

<https://mailchi.mp/swfound.org/announcing-handbook-for-new-actors-in-space-2nd-edition-6149003?e=1278109aa1>

Asteroid Foundation Newsletter

<https://mailchi.mp/asteroidday/eros-near-andromeda-live-event-and-un-multisensoriality-forum-5699905?e=dee220d1a0>