

Weekly Science Report

June 19, 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

Some Australian Aboriginal stories may remember coastlines that vanished beneath the sea over 10,000 years ago. Researchers think they could be among humanity's oldest surviving true stories.

<https://spacedaily.com/t-some-australian-aboriginal-stories-may-remember-coastlines-that-vanished-beneath-the-sea-over-10000-years-ago-researchers-think-they-could-be-among-humanitys-oldest-surviving-true-stories/>

Humans may have discovered fire hundreds of thousands of years before previously thought: new research

<https://nypost.com/2026/06/08/science/humans-may-have-used-fire-hundreds-of-thousands-of-years-earlier/>

12,000-Year-Old Pottery Found in Turkey May Rewrite History of Early Ceramics

<https://greekreporter.com/2026/06/17/pottery-turkey-history-early-ceramics/>

The oldest known plague outbreak struck hunter-gatherers 5,500 years ago

<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/plague-outbreak-oldest-hunter-gatherers>

Denisovan DNA influences the immune systems of modern Oceanians — but researchers aren't sure why

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/human-evolution/denisovan-dna-influences-the-immune-systems-of-modern-oceanians-but-researchers-arent-sure-why>

Did Neanderthals use rhinoceros teeth as tools?

<https://phys.org/news/2026-06-neanderthals-rhinoceros-teeth-tools.html>

Humans Lived in the High Pyrenees for Over 10,000 Years

<https://www.sciencenewstoday.org/humans-lived-in-the-high-pyrenees-for-over-10000-years>

'A completely different story': 300 million-year-old fossils reveal the first vertebrate land dwellers weren't what we thought, researchers claim

<https://www.livescience.com/animals/extinct-species/a-completely-different-story-300-million-year-old-fossils-reveal-the-first-vertebrate-land-dwellers-werent-what-we-thought-researchers-claim>

An unusual strategy helps some tropical butterflies live 25 times longer than their relatives

<https://www.cnn.com/2026/06/19/science/tropical-butterfly-longevity>

History

Famed historian Gordon S. Wood struck, killed in East Providence

<https://www.wpri.com/news/local-news/providence/famed-historian-gordon-s-wood-struck-killed-in-east-providence/>

As the U.S. turns 250, this historian has blunt advice: 'America has to grow up'

<https://www.npr.org/2026/06/15/nx-s1-5856348/america-250-eddie-glaude>

Ancient DNA From Iberian Newborns Reveals 600 Years of Genetic Stability Before Roman Rule

<https://www.sciencenewstoday.org/ancient-dna-from-iberian-newborns-reveals-600-years-of-genetic-stability-before-roman-rule>

Canary Island relics offer new clues into how North African cultures adapted to ocean living

<https://phys.org/news/2026-06-canary-island-relics-clues-north.html>

Unearthed bathhouse reveals a thriving Roman Nijmegen: 'The Romans did not regard this city as a backwater'

https://phys.org/news/2026-06-unearthed-bathhouse-reveals-roman-nijmegen.html#google_vignette

America's 150th Birthday Celebration Was Deemed the Nation's 'Greatest Flop.' What Went Wrong With the Sesquicentennial?

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/americas-150th-birthday-celebration-was-deemed-the-nations-greatest-flop-what-went-wrong-with-the-sesquicentennial-180988946/>

Here's How the Obama Presidential Center Is Different From Other Presidents' Museums

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/heres-how-the-obama-presidential-center-is-different-from-other-presidents-museums-180988974/>

Archaeology

Solstice-aligned 5,000-year-old monument 'once in a lifetime find', say archaeologists

https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2026/jun/18/solstice-aligned-monument-archaeology-wiltshire-stonehenge-prototype?CMP=fb_gu&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwY2xjawSi-BFleHRuA2FbQIxMABicmlkETFYUXozQldhjc0ZXV4VnBCc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODlwMDg5MgABHiDsmT-ytpY16sAzUSeSEZDa1ORwnwDTxVC-EZN3WFoKmEYg8GKA5ma4_y8e_aem_Twp3TUpNLgqEgyRblCgWgw#Echobox=1781764384

Ditch full of 7,000-year-old headless human skeletons discovered in Slovakia, baffling archaeologists

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/ditch-full-of-7-000-year-old-headless-human-skeletons-discovered-in-slovakia-baffling-archaeologists>

2,000 years ago in Scotland, people removed a corpse's brain and fashioned the arm bones into tools

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/2-000-years-ago-in-scotland-people-removed-a-corpses-brain-and-fashioned-the-arm-bones-into-tools>

Workers Dredging the Savannah River Stumbled Upon 19 Cannons That Had Been Underwater Since the Revolutionary War

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/workers-dredging-the-savannah-river-stumbled-upon-19-cannons-that-had-been-underwater-since-the-revolutionary-war-180988928/>

5,000-year-old burial of man with battered skull found in kiln in Germany — and he may have been a human sacrifice

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/5-000-year-old-burial-of-man-with-battered-skull-found-in-kiln-in-germany-and-he-may-have-been-a-human-sacrifice>

Secrets of the Serpent

<https://archaeology.org/issues/july-august-2026/features/secrets-of-the-serpent/>

Egyptology

What Archaeologists Found While Searching for a Buried Second Sphinx in Egypt

https://www.vice.com/en/article/what-archaeologists-found-while-searching-for-a-buried-second-sphinx-in-egypt/?fbclid=IwY2xjawSR3ltleHRuA2F1bQlxMABicmlkETExc2hyOTVLZDRsN2o4anIUc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHkAoKP2S2OdbDboR_FK_g6MfDLskp7nVtazX-4qf2kpSlsF9bvkjRZV4esfm_aem_rGrFIV3vcrRX1aah6jyztg

A 26th Dynasty discovery: New architectural elements of Old Qasr Temple in Bahariya Oasis unearthed

<https://english.ahram.org.eg/UI/Front/Inner.aspx?NewsContentID=571178>

Egypt's First Queen

<https://archaeology.org/issues/july-august-2026/features/egypts-first-queen/>

General Science

Nothing to report

Physics, Earth and Space Sciences

NASA Sets Launch Date for Roman Space Telescope

<https://spacepolicyonline.com/news/nasa-sets-launch-date-for-roman-space-telescope/>

NASA names 4 astronauts on the 'highly complex' Artemis III lunar training mission

<https://www.npr.org/2026/06/09/nx-s1-5851860/nasa-artemis-iii-crew>

'Crystals' of space-time could be the origins of certain rare black holes, theoretical study hints

<https://www.livescience.com/space/black-holes/crystals-of-space-time-could-be-the-origins-of-certain-rare-black-holes-theoretical-study-hints>

Trouble near the Milky Way: The Large Magellanic Cloud is ripping its smaller neighbor galaxy apart

<https://www.space.com/astronomy/galaxies/trouble-near-the-milky-way-the-large-magellanic-cloud-is-ripping-its-smaller-neighbor-galaxy-apart>

5 Absurd Space Myths That NASA Helped Debunk

<https://www.bgr.com/2188631/absurd-space-myths-nasa-debunked/>

How Japanese scientists sent a real-life Transformer to the moon

<https://www.space.com/astronomy/moon/how-japanese-scientists-sent-a-real-life-transformer-to-the-moon>

Humans will soon be able to spend longer in space

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2026/06/13/nasa-humans-spend-longer-in-space/>

Revised Artemis lunar lander plans take shape

<https://spacenews.com/revised-artemis-lunar-lander-plans-take-shape/>

A space telescope is falling to Earth. NASA is racing to rescue it

https://www.science.org/content/article/space-telescope-falling-earth-nasa-racing-rescue-it?utm_campaign=Science&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=ownedSocial

Famous "Pink Planet" harbors a salty surprise

<https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/1132425>

Saturn's icy moon ideal place to settle, establish rest stop for trips into deep space: NASA

<https://nypost.com/2026/06/20/science/saturns-moon-an-ideal-place-for-interplanetary-gas-station-study/>

A body on the edge of our Solar System has an atmosphere – and scientists still aren't sure how that's possible

<https://www.skyatnightmagazine.com/news/2002-xv93-atmosphere>

NASA should build a biocontainment facility on the moon to protect Earth, researchers advise

<https://phys.org/news/2026-06-nasa-biocontainment-facility-moon-earth.html>

In 1908, something exploded above the remote Siberian forest of Tunguska with enough force to flatten roughly 2,000 square kilometres of trees — and more than a century later, no impact crater has ever been found, because the object, probably a small asteroid, appears to have blown itself apart in the atmosphere.

<https://spacedaily.com/t-in-1908-something-exploded-above-the-remote-siberian-forest-of-tunguska-with-enough-force-to-flatten-roughly-2000-square-kilometres-of-trees-and-more-than-a-century-later-no-impact-crater/>

It's Official: Voyager 1 Will Cross The 1 Light-Day Threshold On November 18, 2026
<https://www.iflscience.com/its-official-voyager-1-will-cross-the-1-light-day-threshold-on-november-18-2026-82733>

Meet ERNEST, NASA's Next-Generation Rover Designed to Be Faster and Tougher
<https://gizmodo.com/meet-ernest-nasas-next-generation-rover-designed-to-be-faster-and-tougher-2000774216>

Environment, Climate Change and Alternative Energy Sources

Mysterious 'cold blob' in the Atlantic suggests the AMOC is weakening

<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2529078-mysterious-cold-blob-in-the-atlantic-suggests-the-amoc-is-weakening/>

Reef relief: Scientists map 165,000km² of climate resilient coral

<https://oceanographicmagazine.com/news/reef-relief/>

Climate change is now causing more local extinction in temperate regions than the tropics, surprising study shows

<https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/1132650>

Biological, Genetics and Medical Sciences

Whales are showing up in San Francisco Bay. New ship alerts could help protect them

<https://www.npr.org/2026/06/08/nx-s1-5828784/gray-whales-ship-strikes-san-francisco-bay-climate>

Bumblebees have tiny brains but they can solve problems like chimps and elephants

<https://www.npr.org/2026/06/07/nx-s1-5846947/bumblebees-problem-solving-research>

An ancient whale graveyard in the Indian Ocean teems with life

https://www.nbcnews.com/science/science-news/ancient-whale-graveyard-indian-ocean-teems-life-rcna349560?fbclid=IwY2xjawSbEzNleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFyY0U4dzJnRTZGMXNiTkRGc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHndMNPejwYMMTQnv9Hv98jTTmsbCegvnPgsztTwjViU9ZE5on5LeHvnBW2N0_aem_TClWAD6GcaEGRGt1_5gww

Dino-killing asteroid may have fueled underground life for 8 million years

https://phys.org/news/2026-06-dino-asteroid-fueled-underground-life.html#google_vignette

Scientists just found something weird inside moss

<https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/1132663>

Humans may have hidden regenerative powers

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2026/06/260617032207.htm>

Other

Alien first contact: how the new rules differ from science fiction

<https://theconversation.com/alien-first-contact-how-the-new-rules-differ-from-science-fiction-278394>

Additional Informational

A STEP Grant update: Growing our understanding of deep-space agriculture
https://www.planetary.org/articles/a-step-grant-update-growing-our-understanding-of-deep-space-agriculture?utm_campaign=downlink&utm_medium=email&utm_source=20260612&s_src=downlink&s_subsrc=20260612

What we know about Artemis III: NASA announces crew
https://www.planetary.org/articles/what-we-know-about-artemis-iii-nasa-announces-crew?utm_campaign=downlink&utm_medium=email&utm_source=20260612&s_src=downlink&s_subsrc=20260612

Merciless Indian Savages: America 250 Through an Indigenous Lense Facebook Live, July 2
https://www.facebook.com/events/4420909874818432/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A%7B%22mechanism%22%3A%22attachment%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22newsfeed%22%7D%2C%22ref_notif_type%22%3Anull%7D

Periodic radio and X-ray emission from an accreting white dwarf binary
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41550-026-02882-x>

Robotic Spacecraft for Swift Boost Mission Arrives at NASA Wallops
<https://science.nasa.gov/blogs/swift/2026/06/05/robotic-spacecraft-for-swift-boost-mission-arrives-at-nasa-wallops/>

NASA's Webb Detects Methane on Interstellar Comet 3I/ATLAS
<https://science.nasa.gov/blogs/3iatlas/2026/06/01/nasas-webb-detects-methane-on-interstellar-comet-3i-atlas/>

Beyond Disclosure Day: The Real-World Protocols
<https://www.seti.org/news/beyond-disclosure-day/>

STATEMENT: Trump Opens Three Marine National Monuments to U.S. Commercial Fishing Interests
<https://www.americanprogress.org/press/statement-trump-opens-three-marine-national-monuments-to-u-s-commercial-fishing-interests/>

Mohenjo daro: Unsealing an Ancient Indus City- Video
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BxyxVgAMM_4

The Planetary Society Announces Winner of Celestial Escape to Mauna Kea Sweepstakes
https://www.planetary.org/press-releases/the-planetary-society-announces-winner-of-celestial-escape-to-mauna-kea-sweepstakes?utm_campaign=downlink&utm_medium=email&utm_source=20260619&s_src=downlink&s_subsrc=20260619

ESA science missions get green light for new discoveries
https://www.esa.int/Science_Exploration/Space_Science/ESA_science_missions_get_green_light_for_new_discoveries

Titan's Resources and their Utilization
<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2606.06608>

Titan, a moon with familiar vistas
https://www.planetary.org/worlds/titan?utm_campaign=downlink&utm_medium=email&utm_source=20260619&s_src=downlink&s_subsrc=20260619

Archaeological evidence of intensive indigenous farming in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, USA
https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.ads1643?utm_campaign=Science&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=ownedSocial

The Intentional Burial of Egypt | Catherine Ulisse (Schoch) at Cosmic Summit 2025
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ggM4Tny-1-w>

NASA's Lucy Reveals Wobbling, Peanut-Shaped Asteroid
<https://science.nasa.gov/missions/nasas-lucy-reveals-wobbling-peanut-shaped-asteroid/>

Emergent decadal predictability in Antarctic contribution to sea-level rise
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-026-10614-4>