

## Science News of the Summer

*Science happens everyday! Over the summer, while you were resting, you may have missed some big Science news happenings. OR, these may not have been Science news stories, at all! Which of these news stories are TRUE, and which are FALSE?*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, or TESS, discovered five new planets.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Scientists have found 18million year-old fossils of what is now known as the smallest monkey to ever live. It would have been about the size of a baseball.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Elephants of the central African rainforest are becoming extinct, which means that fewer seeds will be planted resulting in decreased plant growth and decreased oxygen levels (and increased carbon dioxide levels).
4. \_\_\_\_\_ The face of Alan Touring, considered to be the father of Computer Science, will be printed on Britain's new £50 note.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Scientists have developed a bionic stomach that is more efficient at breaking down food than a human's natural stomach.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ A group of volunteers collected nearly 300,000 cigarette butts in 1 HOUR in Brussels, Belgium, demonstrating that they are the number one manmade ocean contaminant.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Construction workers in New Zealand accidentally dug up a 40,000 year old tree that is giving scientists clues as to what will happen when Earth's magnetic poles flip, which they are starting to do.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Google released Chrome 76 which has more features that will secure user privacy and safe browsing.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ A North Carolina man died from a rare "brain-eating" amoeba infection after swimming in a lake at Fantasy Lake Water Park in Cumberland County, NC.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ India launched its first Chandrayaan 2 mission to explore the moon's bacterial species, launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Center.

**ANSWERS: If FALSE, see underlined bold text for TRUE statement.**

1. *FALSE* Date: July 29, 2019

Source: Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Summary: NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, or TESS, has discovered **three** new worlds that are among the smallest, nearest exoplanets known to date. The planets orbit a star just 73 light years away and include a small, rocky super-Earth and two sub-Neptunes -- planets about half the size of our own icy giant.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/07/190729111328.htm>

2. TRUE Date: July 26, 2019

Source: Duke University

Summary: Some 18 million years ago, a tiny monkey weighing little more than a baseball lived in the Amazon rainforest, the smallest fossil monkey known worldwide. The finding is based on a single tooth, twice the size of a pinhead, which scientists recently uncovered in a river bank in southeastern Peru. The specimen helps bridge a 15-million-year gap in the fossil record for New World monkeys.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/07/190726094631.htm>

3. TRUE Date: July 25, 2019

One of the last remaining megaherbivores, forest elephants shape their environment by serving as seed dispersers and forest bulldozers as they eat over a hundred species of fruit, trample bushes, knock over trees and create trails and clearings. Their ecological impact also affects tree populations and carbon levels in the forest, researchers report, with significant implications for climate and conservation policies.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/07/190725100433.htm>

4. TRUE July 15, 2019

London (CNN Business) Alan Turing, a crack code-breaker and visionary mathematician who was convicted under Victorian-era homophobic laws, will be the face of Britain's new £50 note. Bank of England Governor Mark Carney announced Monday that Turing, who killed himself in 1954 after he was subjected to chemical castration, will appear on the new polymer note by the end of 2021.

<https://tinyurl.com/y6gjc7zb>

5. *FALSE* (This was actually from 2017)

scientists from the University of California at San Francisco, USA, have developed the **world's first bionic kidney which can replace damaged kidneys easily and effectively**. The bionic kidney is a perfect replica of our kidneys. This artificial kidney consists of numerous microchips and is moved by the heart. Like the normal kidneys, it is able to filter waste and toxins from the bloodstream. The project was unveiled by William Vanderbilt Fissels and Shuvo Roy from the University of California, offering renewed hope for millions of kidney dialysis patients. Now, some of you may be wondering "But, what if the body rejects it?", but, the scientists assure us that the chances of rejection are zero! Incredible, right?

<https://tinyurl.com/yyaoztrc>

6. TRUE (This was actually from 2018)

Environmentalists have taken aim at the targets systematically, seeking to eliminate or rein in big sources of ocean pollution — first plastic bags, then eating utensils and, most recently, drinking straws. More than a dozen coastal cities prohibited plastic straws this year. Many more are pondering bans, along with the states of California and Hawaii. Yet the No. 1 man-made contaminant in the world's oceans is the small but ubiquitous cigarette butt — and it has mostly avoided regulation. That soon could change, if a group of committed activists has its way.

<https://tinyurl.com/yczyh7lv>

7. TRUE July 14, 2019

Every 200,000 to 300,000 years, Earth's magnetic North and South poles swap places, an event that opens the planet up to solar radiation and coincides with major extinction events. We're long overdue for such an adventure, with the last pole reversal occurring 780,000 years ago. Earlier this year, NASA warned that the magnetic "north pole" is racing 30 miles-per-year toward Russia, signaling the beginning of a total pole reversal.

8. TRUE July 31, 2019

Google Chrome 76 is out, and it has more features to help secure users' privacy and to help people stay safe while browsing the internet. The new version also can help get around paywalls and includes the crowd favorite, dark mode. Google released Chrome version 76 on Tuesday. Included in the update is a fix to a loophole that allowed websites to check if people are browsing in Incognito Mode. With the change, sites that use paywalls won't be able to detect if the privacy feature is being used.

<https://www.cnet.com/news/chrome-76-adds-dark-mode-removes-incognito-mode-detection/>

9. TRUE July 12, 2019

A man in North Carolina died from a rare "brain-eating" amoeba infection after swimming in a lake at a local water park, according to news reports. The 59-year-old man became ill after visiting Fantasy Lake Water Park, a man-made lake in Cumberland County, on July 12, according to [The New York Times](#).

<https://www.livescience.com/66037-man-brain-eating-amoeba-death-north-carolina.html>

10. FALSE July 22, 2019

At 5:13 a.m. EDT on July 22, the Chandrayaan 2 mission launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Center on India's southeast coast. The mission consists of an orbiter; a lander named Vikram after Indian space scientist Vikram Sarabhai; and a rover named Pragyan, the Sanskrit word for wisdom. Chandrayaan 2 mission's rover **will explore closer to the moon's south pole than any other rover**

<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/india-first-lunar-lander-launch-moon>