

STEMazing NEWS



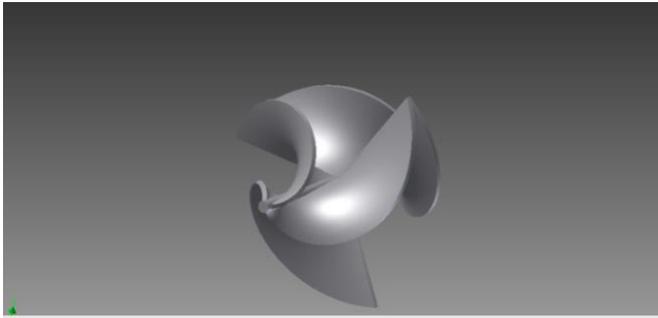
Volcano Glows Blue!

During the day, the Indonesian volcano, Kawah Ijen, looks pretty much like other volcanos around the world—red lava, smoke and steam. At night, however, the volcano glows a brilliant blue. What causes this color? If you have ever seen sulfur burn you could explain this volcano easily! Sulfur burns with blue flame. This particular volcano has a high amount of sulfuric gases that are released with the eruption. The sulfur in the gas ignites, and presto, a blue volcano! See the video and read more at: <https://curiosity.com/topics/indonesias-kawah-ijen-volcano-burns-a-brilliant-blue-curiosity/>



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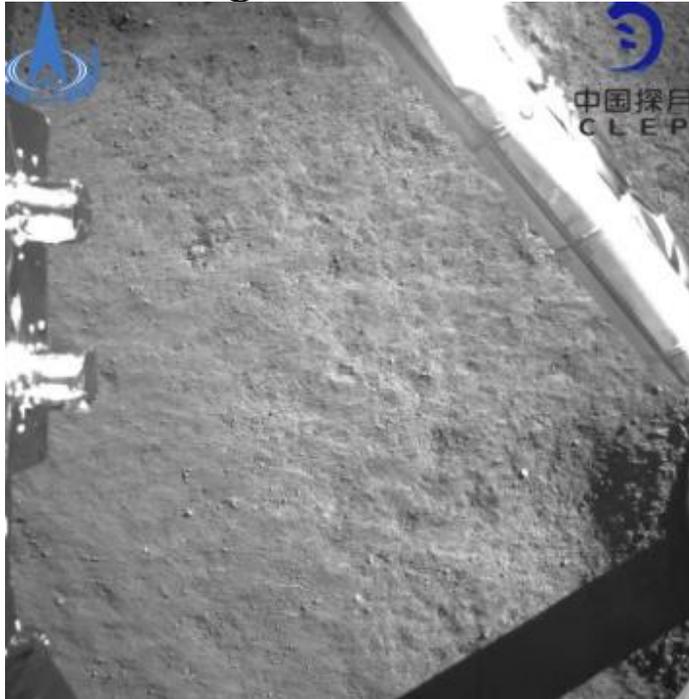
Flamingo-inspired Wave Turbine!

Flamingos dip their heads into the water and move their beaks back and forth in the water in order to filter for small crustaceans. What biologists have recognized is that their filter works in both directions. Inspired by this design in nature, scientists and technologists have designed a turbine that will spin in both directions depending on which way the water is flowing. This means that an incoming wave can drive a turbine in one direction and when the wave recedes it will drive it in the reverse direction. Since wave energy has an enormous potential for conversion to electrical energy, this new idea would double the output of wave generators. Thanks, *Phoenicopterus ruber* for the great idea! See the video and read more at: <https://asknature.org/idea/the-bidirectional-wave-turbine/#.XC91zc9Ki9Y>



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China on the Moon!

The moon rotates at the same speed as the earth so we only see a little more than half of the moon's surface from earth. Satellites and astronauts have viewed the dark side as they orbit the moon, but until now, there have been no landings. That all changed when Chang'e 4 landed on the dark side of the moon on January second. The craft will take various readings and pictures and relay them to a Chinese satellite that is orbiting the moon so it can be relayed back to earth. See and read more at:

<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/china-change4-first-spacecraft-lands-moon-farside>



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Emotion Glasses!

Autistic children often are unable to detect emotion in others because they do not interpret facial cues easily. Therapy can be helpful, but skilled psychologists that can work with a child to teach these skills are few and waiting times to get a therapist is long. A new technology seems to be helpful. A smart pair of glasses reads the face of an interacting person and then gives the wearer a cue of which emotion the person is expressing. In clinical trials, students using the glasses showed improved social skills and eye contact with others. See and read more at:
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/google-glass-could-help-children-autism-socialize-others>

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Arachnophobia!

About five percent of the human population are deathly afraid of spiders. The balance of the 95% have varying degrees of fear/skepticism about spiders, but why? What is it about these creatures that are more off-putting than, say a sow bug or a lady bird beetle? Maybe it is because we know they can bite—although phobias start as easily as children at age 6 months so that doesn't explain all of our fears. Perhaps it is the extra pair of legs beyond six for insects—is 8 a scary number? What we do know is that people do the most bizarre things to avoid spiders. See and read more at:
<https://www.livescience.com/64401-man-arachnophobia-causes-police-response.html>

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