

STEMazing NEWS



Magnificent, But How?

A mystery that still befuddles archaeologists and scientists is how the ancient Egyptians were able to build the pyramids. Although there are methods that have been shown where large multi-ton stones could be moved along the ground, it has always been difficult to determine how they moved them from ground level to the top of a steep pyramid. A recent discovery at a quarry south of the pyramids may shed light on this. Evidence of stones that were cut from the base rock in the quarry and evidently pulled up a steep ramp were found near the pyramids. Alongside the ramp were staircases with places for posts on each side. Speculation is that these posts and the staircases allowed giant pulley systems to pull the stones up steep 20 degree slopes. See and read more at: <https://curiosity.com/topics/we-may-finally-know-how-the-pyramids-were-built-curiosity/>



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Coffee or Tea?

Why do some people like coffee and others tea? Some of our taste preference is taught through culture and familiarity, but scientists were skeptical about how taste buds prefer foods and drinks that are bitter. Using thousands of records of DNA banks in the US, Australia, and England, the research focused on the genes that control sense receptors for bitterness. They found that those that drank a large number of cups of coffee had a higher genetic score for bitterness sensitivity. Perhaps we were born to drink coffee or tea! See and read more at: <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/coffee-tea-preference-dna-chemical-sensitivity-taste>



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Burn Those Calories!

When's the best time to just sit around and burn calories? Health scientists tracked seven patients in a windowless facility monitoring their metabolism through the day. After three weeks, researchers found that patients burned more calories in the late afternoon (2-8 pm) versus early in the day (5-12 AM). Now you know when you can relax and still feel the burn! See and read more at:
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/number-calories-you-burn-while-resting-depends-time-day>

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10 g Jaw!

The sling-jaw wrasse eyes a tiny shrimp on a coral. Zap! Faster than a speeding bullet it protrudes its jaw and scoops up the prey. The wrasses' jaw has a special hinge that extends the jaw far beyond its head. This all happens in $1/30^{\text{th}}$ of a second and at a gravitational force of 10 g! See the video and read more at:
<https://asknature.org/strategy/shooting-snout-snags-prey/#.XBrddxNKhma>



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Climate Rock!

A rock along the Elbe River in Europe was carved in 1616 when the water level of the river hit an extreme low. Such low levels meant people would starve because there would be little water to irrigate crops. Through the centuries, each drought was marked on this climate rock with the date and sometimes the message, “if you see this, weep.” See the video and read more at: <https://curiosity.com/topics/an-intense-drought-is-revealing-ancient-messages-and-historic-structures-curiosity/>



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