

STEMazing NEWS



ROBOT SKIN!

Want your stuffed animal to come to life? Just slip on some robotic skin to the legs and attach to a digital command center. The air pockets embedded in the skin expand and contract as electrical impulses pump or remove air from each pocket.

See the video and learn more about this new approach to robotic movement at:

<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/high-tech-skins-turn-everyday-objects-robots>



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CARBON OUT!

When carbon fuels burn, they produce CO₂ and CO compounds—the evil actors in the atmospheric climate change scenario. Although it has long been known that tiny amounts of CO compounds can be removed with an electrically charged smoke stack filter, new research has shown how to remove as much as 84% of the exiting CO. Using new polymer substrates and carbon channels, gases are funneled through a much tighter gauntlet of electrochemical charge and are grabbed better than the old system where they often just bounced of the electrode. Maybe we can someday still burn fossil fuels—but, just eliminate the carbon footprint! Read and see more at:
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/new-devices-could-help-turn-atmospheric-co2-useful-supplies>

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PEA APHIDS RIDE!

Aphids are insects that have sucking mouthparts that sip juices from all sorts of plants. When a cow starts grazing the plant, aphids somehow sense wet cow breath coming and they immediately drop to the ground. The adults can move quickly on the ground and scurry to some new plant for safety. Baby aphids are helpless, however. They find an adult—any adult, hop on, and ride to safety! Read and see more at: <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/pea-aphid-youngsters-use-piggyback-rides-escape-crisis>



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CRUSHING IT!

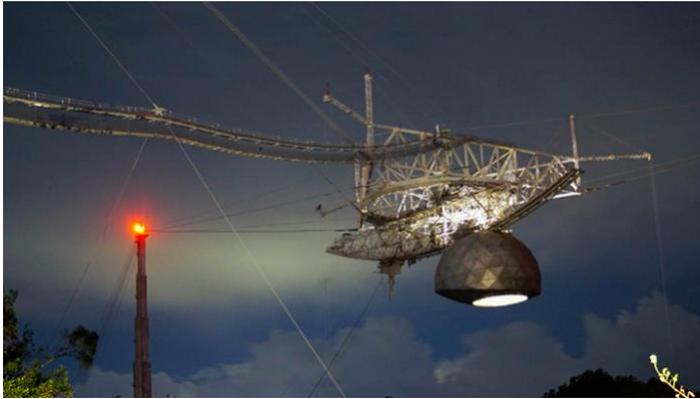
T. Rex not only looks fierce, but new data confirms they could literally crush the bones of their prey. By studying the bites of birds and crocodiles, paleontologists have estimated the bite power of *rex*. Based on the sheer crushing power of the jaws, the bones of the prey could be chomped and chewed, thus releasing high-density nutrients. Now they are even scarier! See and read more at:

<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/tyrannosaurus-rex-pulverized-bones-incredible-amount-force>



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Is the “Truth” still out there??

We haven't found any aliens yet—depending on who you ask or what conspiracy theory you subscribe! Astronomers say one reason we haven't found any aliens is that we have barely just looked. The Puerto Rico observatory pictured above is designed to search for extraterrestrial life. Thus far, it has come up empty. But, how many fish would you expect to find in a random bathtub sample of water from the ocean? That is about the proportion of exploration astronomers have done in space thus far. Maybe the “Truth” is still out there, Mulder! See and read more at:

<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/only-small-fraction-space-searched-aliens>



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