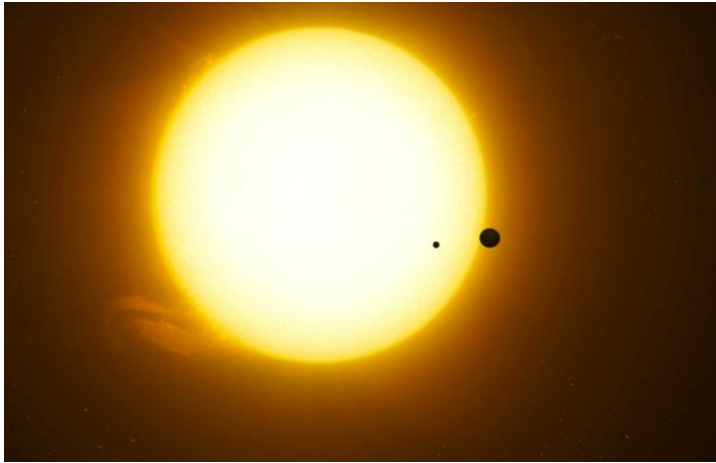


STEMazing NEWS



What's an Exomoon?

Earth has a moon, Jupiter has moons. What about planets outside our solar system? Do they have moons? The Hubble Space telescope may have photographed evidence of a large moon associated with a massive gas planet some 8000 light years away from earth. If it is a moon, then it may challenge the theory of how moons are formed. See and read more at: <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/hubble-may-have-spotted-first-known-exomoon>



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Miracle Birth!

About 1.5 million women worldwide are unable to bear children because their uteri are either deformed or missing. Transplanting uteri has been a successful strategy—from living donors. There have been 11 births reported from only a handful of these transplants. Recently, a deceased donor's uterus was transplanted into a Brazilian woman. A year later she gave birth to a healthy girl. See and read more at: <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/first-woman-uterus-transplanted-deceased-donor-gives-birth>

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Weed Work!

Have you ever wondered why some weeds resist being eaten by pests while your garden gets devoured? Analyzing the chemical composition of some of these plants show traces of bitter chemicals in the leaves. The plant cells produce these proteins and pump them into the plant's circulatory system. There is a trade-off, however. Plants that use this strategy produce fewer seeds and do not grow as large. It takes a great deal of energy to protect yourself! Read and see more at: <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/plants-engineered-always-be-alert-do-not-grow-well>



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WOMBAT POOP!

If you want to mark your territory and want to use your scat, then you don't want it to roll away! Wombats lay uniquely cuboidal scat in piles to identify their domain. The wombat intestine is specially designed to create these cubes of poop. The excreted turds are fibrous and dry like dice. Looks like the wombat has rolled a lucky 7! See and read more at: <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/how-wombats-poop-cubes>



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Ancient Vanilla!

Vanilla is extracted from the seeds of some tropical species of orchids. Plant and human biologists used to think that the earliest uses of vanilla were about 1000 years ago, and in the new world, Mexico. Now, however, Israeli archaeologists have analyzed remains in tombs from Megiddo that are 3700 years old. The fingerprint of the vanilla compounds was found associated with olive oil found in the tomb. Perhaps vanilla wasn't used to flavor food—maybe it was used as a potion or preservative. See and read more at: <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/bronze-age-tomb-israel-reveals-earliest-known-use-vanilla>

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