



National Chess Day: Honouring the Game of Strategy

National Chess Day recognizes one of the world's most timeless and strategic games. Chess is more than just a board game, it enhances critical thinking, patience, and problem-solving skills while fostering focus and creativity. The day encourages players of all ages to engage in matches, tournaments, and learning activities that sharpen the mind. Schools, clubs, and enthusiasts celebrate the game's rich history and the legends who have shaped it. National Chess Day is a tribute to the intellectual challenge and universal appeal of a game that has inspired generations worldwide.

#MYSTERY

The Glass Coffin of Akhenaten

A Pharaoh's Final Enigma, Not gold. Not stone. But glass.



In the world of ancient Egypt, where kings were buried beneath mountains of gold and laid to rest in coffins of intricately carved stone, this is almost unthinkable. And yet, deep in the sands of history lies a mystery unlike any other: a royal coffin made of glass. The only one of its kind ever discovered.

It didn't belong to Tutankhamun, the boy king whose golden mask captured the world's imagination. It wasn't crafted for Ramses II, the mighty warrior-pharaoh. No, this extraordinary sarcophagus was created for Akhenaten, the most controversial and enigmatic ruler Egypt ever knew.

Akhenaten was no ordinary king. He upended centuries of tradition, abandoned the powerful priesthood of Amun, and declared the sun disc Aten to be the one true god. He moved the capital to a new city in the desert, Amarna, and ruled with a philosophy that baffled his contemporaries and still stirs debate among historians today. Dubbed 'the heretic king,' Akhenaten shattered religious norms, artistic conventions, and political alliances.

And now, it seems, even death could not tame his defiance.

A glass coffin in ancient Egypt is not just rare, it's unprecedented. Glass, at the time, was a precious and relatively new material, more valuable than gold in some contexts. To craft an entire coffin from it would have required immense resources, technical mastery, and perhaps most importantly, a radical vision.

But why glass? Was it symbolic, a way to represent transparency, transformation, or even divine light? Was it scientific, perhaps an experiment in preservation or material innovation? Or was it spiritual, a break from the earthly to embrace a more ethereal afterlife?

Some scholars suggest that Akhenaten may have seen glass as a sacred substance, capable of transmitting the rays of Aten, the sun god he so passionately revered. Others wonder if this was a personal statement, an eternal continuation of the same revolution he began in life. A coffin not built to conform, but to confront.



What message was Akhenaten trying to send through time?

Unfortunately, much of his legacy was deliberately erased. After his death, successors, including his own son, Tutankhamun, worked to dismantle his reforms and restore the old gods. His name was struck from records. His city was abandoned. And his glass coffin was forgotten.

Until now.

The rediscovery of this sarcophagus is more than an archaeological find. It is a challenge, to everything we

thought we knew about ancient Egypt, its materials, its customs, and its kings. It raises questions that defy easy answers and shines a new light, quite literally, on one of history's most elusive figures. Was this an act of devotion, rebellion, or genius? Or perhaps all three?

One thing is certain: Akhenaten was not content to follow the path of other pharaohs. In life, and in death, he forged his own.



● Verna Mohon

In Autumn garden can be a great and beautiful place, not a space that makes us mourn for the glory days of summer but somewhere that allows us to revel in the beauty and abundance of the season. Fall is definitely

my favorite time of the year, and perhaps, the time of year when I enjoy and appreciate my own garden most of all.

Unfortunately, many gardeners seem to focus on summer so much that the garden can fade during the fall and not live up to its full potential at this time of the year.

So, to help gardeners make sure they have gardens that bloom and create abundance right through to the first frosts and beyond, here are some tips for a fabulous fall garden.

Continue to Sow and Grow Annual Crops in Fall

If you live in a warmer climate zone, you will no doubt be able to grow annual crops outdoors year-round. You may already sow and grow cool-season crops for winter in

the fall. Even in cooler and more northern gardens, however, it is still possible to sow and grow throughout the year if you invest in an undercover growing area or grow indoors.

When you switch from summer growing to year-round cultivation, you will be amazed by how much more you are able to grow and by the abundance of your yields.

By sowing and growing the right crops at the right times throughout the year, your garden can be incredibly productive right up to and even beyond the first frosts.

Embrace Perennials for Food Production

As well as growing annual crops for food production, a successful fall garden also shows very clearly why it can be such a good idea to embrace perennial food production.

A forest garden, or even a single fruit tree and guild, can be particularly beautiful and productive in the fall. This is the time when a number of fruit trees and berry bushes will be producing their yields. This is also a time when you may be harvesting seeds from other plants within the space, as well as propagating plants in other ways.

A Fabulous Autumn Garden

Making a fabulous fall garden is mostly about the plants that you choose to grow and the ways in which you choose to garden. But gardens should not be entirely about hard work, and you can also take steps to ensure you can fully enjoy the space, not just in summer but also in cooler seasons. Covered seating areas, garden buildings, outdoor heat sources (like fire pits or outdoor fireplaces, for example), and perhaps, outdoor lighting can help you enjoy your garden just as much in the fall as you do in the summer.

#HOME



Not only will having perennial food-producing plants in your garden, trees, shrubs, and herbaceous perennials, allow you to harvest abundant yields from a fall garden, they can also often look wonderful and attract plenty of wildlife for you to watch and enjoy at this time of the year.

Choose Native Plants for a Diverse Fall Garden

Whether for food production, for ornamental spaces, or both, it is always a good idea to look first at native plants. Plants that are native to your area should always make up a high proportion of the plants that you grow.

Selecting plenty of native plants that bloom or provide other interest in the fall can help you to boost biodiversity, and, of course, they look lovely and right at home. Native plant databases for your area can become shopping lists for a diverse fall garden.

Use and Value Fall Leaves

Of course, some of the useful plants for a fall garden are those that have colorful foliage. When deciduous trees drop their leaves later in the season, creating a fabulous fall gar-

den means making the most of those fallen leaves as a resource to keep your garden looking good and growing strong.

To make the most of fall leaves, you can use them as mulch to protect the soil and overwintering plants (like garlic, for example), make leaf mold to enrich the soil and/or fill planters or containers, or perhaps even take on some fun arts and crafts projects to enjoy their colors and shapes inside your home.

Add Garden Features for Year-Round Enjoyment

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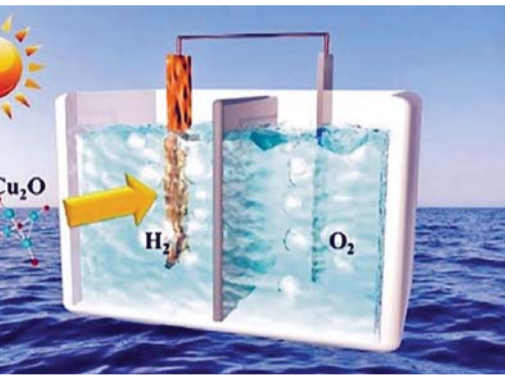
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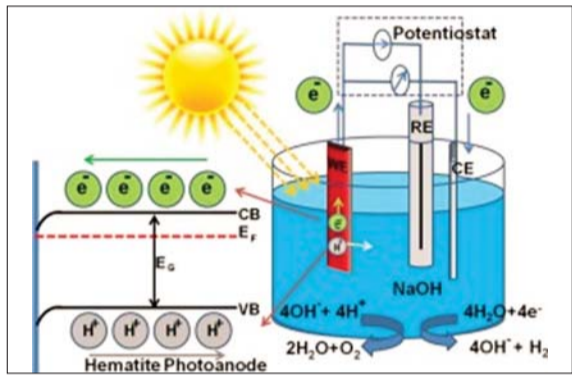
#HYDROGEN BREAKTHROUGH

Sunlight-Power for Clean Fuel

Producing hydrogen, by splitting water with sunlight, has long been viewed as a potential game-changer for clean energy



Photocathodes for photoelectrochemical water.



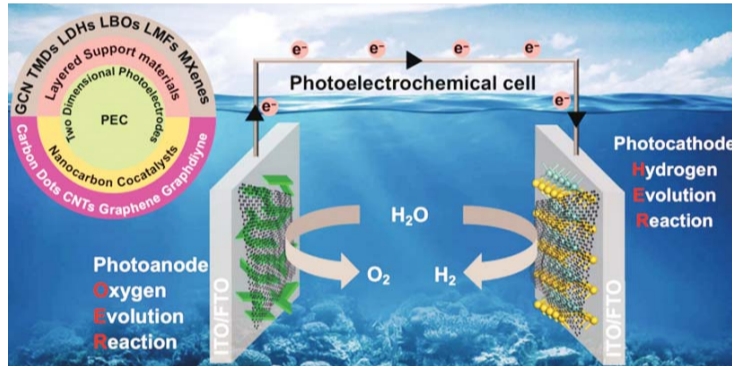
Performance of hematite photoanodes.

As the world races to decarbonize transportation, particularly in heavy-duty sectors like shipping, trucking, and aviation, hydrogen is emerging as a strong contender to replace fossil fuels. Now, researchers at Linköping University in Sweden have made a significant leap forward by developing a new material that could dramatically improve the efficiency of clean hydrogen production, using only sunlight and water.

The innovation centers on a three-layered system designed to split water molecules into hydrogen and oxygen, a key process in generating hydrogen fuel without harmful emissions. The material is composed of cubic silicon carbide, cobalt oxide, and nickel hydroxide, each playing a vital role in enhancing the separation of electric charges during the reaction.

"Our new design improves charge separation significantly, which is one of the major hurdles in using solar energy to produce hydrogen," said Dr. Yihan Zhang, a lead researcher on the project. "The result is a system that's up to eight times more efficient than previous attempts."

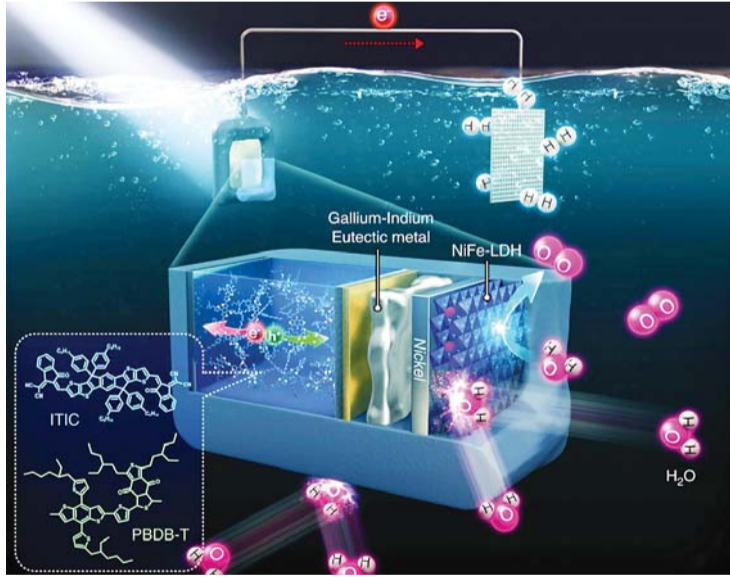
Producing hydrogen, by splitting water with sunlight, a



Nanocarbon enhanced 2D photoelectrodes.



process known as photoelectrochemical water splitting, has long been viewed as a potential game-changer for clean energy.



High performance and stable photoelectrochemical water splitting cell.

However, until now, the process has remained inefficient and costly, limiting its widespread adoption.

The Linköping team's approach not only boosts efficiency but also relies on earth-abundant and relatively low-cost materials, addressing another key challenge in sustainable hydrogen production.

Currently, the prototype remains in the experimental phase. The researchers are working to push the system's efficiency closer to 10%, a critical threshold that many experts believe would make green hydrogen commercially viable for large-scale applications.

"If we can reach that target within the next decade, we could see hydrogen become a practical and affordable solution for powering long-haul trucks, cargo ships, and even airplanes, all without emitting CO2," said Dr. Zhang.

The breakthrough comes as governments and industries worldwide invest billions in hydrogen infrastructure, driven by climate goals and the need to transition away from fossil fuels. While battery-electric technology has made strides in passenger cars, its limitations in range, weight, and charging times have left room for hydrogen to play a larger role in heavy transport.

With the promise of sunlight-driven, low-cost hydrogen on the horizon, the findings from Linköping University may mark a pivotal moment in the clean energy transition, one where the smallest element becomes the driving force behind the biggest machines.

#NATURE

Bizarre and Beautiful Animals You've Probably Never Seen Before

Nature is filled with extraordinary creatures that many people never encounter. While animals like elephants, tigers, and whales get much of the spotlight, there are lesser-known species that are just as fascinating, if not more so. Let's explore five incredibly unique animals you've probably never seen or even heard of before: the Silky Chicken, Sea Bunny, Honduran White Bat, Angora Rabbit, and Sea Sheep.

The Silky Chicken, also known as the Silkie, is one of the most peculiar-looking birds in the world. Unlike the typical chicken, this breed is covered in soft, fluffy feathers that feel like silk or satin, hence its name. With its black skin and bones, blue earlobes, and five toes on each foot (most chickens have only four), it stands out both in appearance and biology. The Silkie has been traced back to Asia, possibly ancient China, and is known not just for its striking looks but also for



its calm and friendly personality. It's often kept as a pet or show bird due to its docile temperament and unique charm.

Then there's the Sea Bunny, a tiny marine animal that looks like a rabbit but is actually a species of sea slug called *Jorunna parva*. Found in the waters around Japan and the Philippines, the Sea Bunny is incredibly small, usually no more than a few centimeters long. Its 'ears' are actually rhinophores, sensory organs that detect chemical changes in the water, helping it navigate and find food. The rest of its

body is covered in tiny fur-like structures called papillae, giving it a soft, fuzzy appearance. It's both adorable and fascinating, a reminder that the ocean still holds countless secrets.

Next is the Honduran White Bat, a tiny, fruit-eating bat found in parts of Central America, especially Honduras and Costa Rica. Measuring only about 1.5 inches in length, this bat is remarkable for its pure white fur, an unusual trait among bats, and its vivid yellow ears and nose. What makes this species even more fascinating is its behavior: the bats create 'tents' by cutting and folding large leaves, under which they roost during the day. These small, ghost-like creatures blend perfectly with the filtered light of the rainforest, making them both mysterious and elusive.

Another animal that seems too fluffy to be real is the Angora Rabbit. Originally bred in Turkey, this breed is known for its incredibly long and soft wool, which has



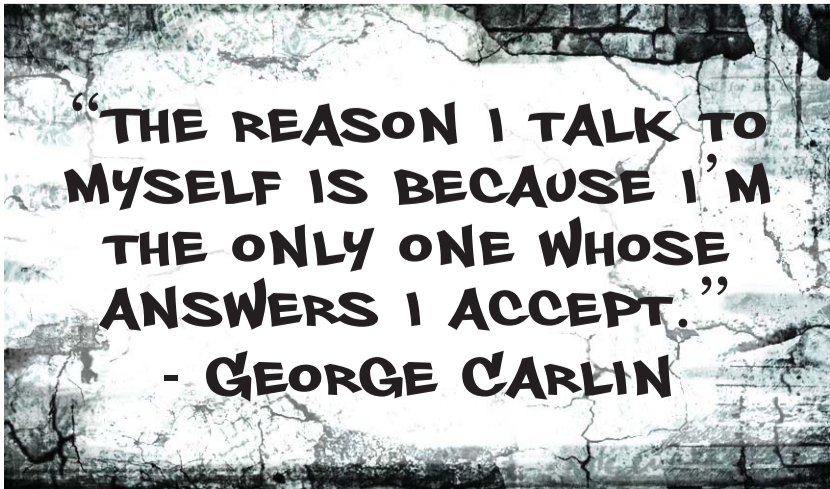
been used for centuries to make Angora yarn. The rabbit itself often looks like a moving ball of fluff, with its eyes and ears barely visible beneath layers of silky fiber. There are several types of Angora rabbits, including the English, French, and Giant varieties. While they make adorable pets, they require regular grooming due to the length and density of their wool.

Finally, we come to the Sea Sheep, or *Costasiella kuroshimae*, another marine slug that looks like something out of a fantasy world. Often referred to as the 'leaf

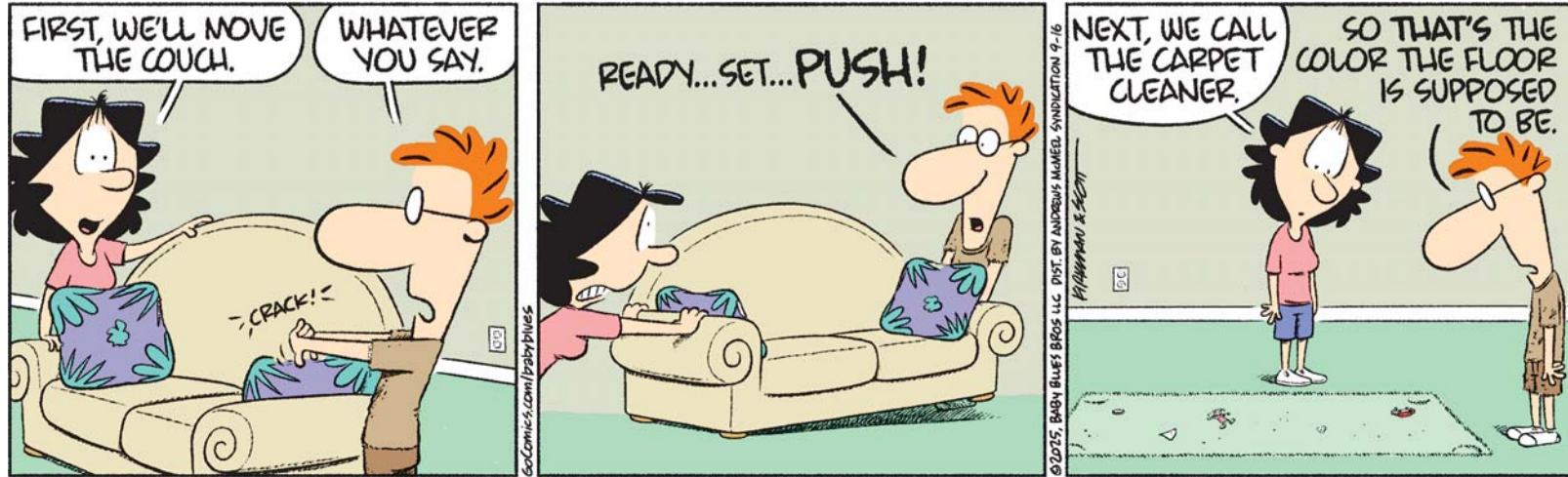
sheep,' this tiny creature is found in shallow coastal waters near Japan and the Philippines. What makes the Sea Sheep truly unique is its ability to photosynthesize. After feeding on algae, it retains the chloroplasts from the plants in its own body and uses them to create energy from sunlight, much like a plant does. This rare ability, called kleptoplasty, makes the Sea Sheep one of the very few animals on Earth capable of harnessing sunlight in this way.

These five animals are vivid reminders of the diversity and imagination of the natural world. Though they may not be well-known, they each have a unique story, appearance, and biological quirk that sets them apart from the rest of the animal kingdom. Whether they live in the forest canopy, the ocean floor, or the barnyard, these creatures prove that Earth is home to life forms far stranger and more beautiful than we often realize.

THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman