

Science in the News

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FIST BUMPS

MORE THAN JUST COOL!



President Obama and a student fist-bump in the White House.

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What's Inside:

▣ Taking Pictures of Animals from Space

▣ New Space Suits

▣ What Caused Giant Craters?

Fist Bumps Spread Fewer Germs



Life Science

People use touch to be friendly with other people. We hug people we love. We say hello to people with a handshake. Sometimes we use high fives and fist bumps. These hand greetings show that we like and care for others. But touching hands can also spread germs.

Your hands are always touching things. You touch doors and desks. You touch pens, books, and many other things every day. When you touch something, you pick up germs. You also leave some germs behind. Most germs are safe. Others can make you sick.

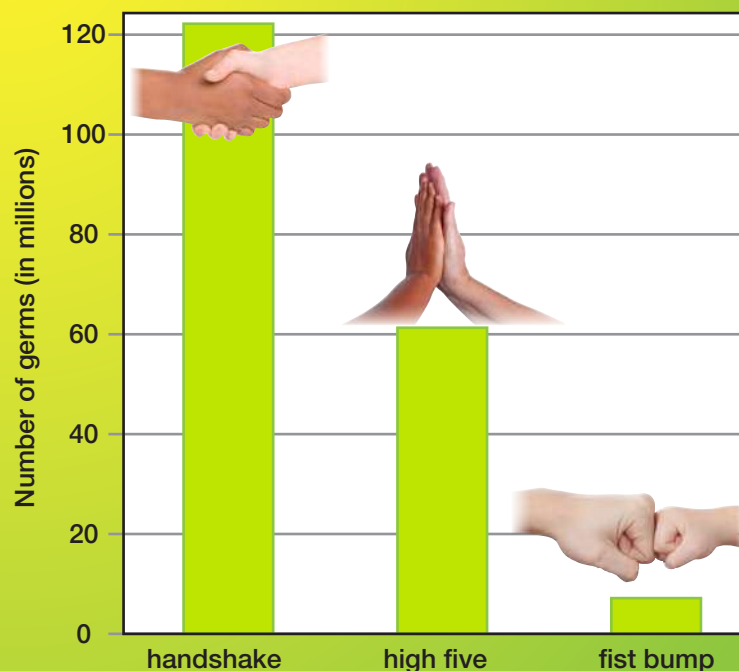
Scientists studied handshakes, high fives, and fist bumps. They found that handshakes spread the most germs. High fives spread a lot of germs, but not as many as handshakes. Fist bumps spread just a few germs.

Don't worry! You can still use handshakes and high fives. Just be sure to wash your hands afterward. Also, try not to touch your eyes, nose, or mouth. These are places where germs can get into your body. Maybe someday fist bumps will replace handshakes! ❖



Be sure not to fist-bump too hard. You and your friend could hurt your hands!

GERMS SPREAD BY HAND GREETINGS



Fist bumps spread just a small amount of germs. Handshakes and high fives spread more germs.

TAKING PICTURES OF ANIMALS FROM SPACE



This is a satellite picture of ice near the South Pole. The brown spots show where a family of emperor penguins lives.



Life Science

Near the North Pole, a polar bear is walking.

The ice has melted, so the ground is dark. At the same time, a machine called a *satellite* is flying high above Earth. Satellites can take pictures of Earth all the way from space. The satellite takes a picture of the North Pole. The polar bear shows up in the picture! It is a tiny spot of white on the dark ground.

Another satellite takes a picture of the South Pole. In this picture, brown spots show up on the white, icy ground. Can you guess what they are?

They show where penguins live! Scientists can use satellite pictures to learn more about polar bears and penguins. ❖

New Space Suits

This drawing shows what an astronaut would look like wearing the new suit on Mars.



Engineering

NASA is making new space suits.

These space suits may help people go to Mars. The new suit is called the Z-2. It has a hard top that covers the body. The sleeves and pants can bend at the elbows and knees. This will help the men and women move around.

Astronauts will test the suits on Earth. They want to make sure the suits are safe to wear in space. The suits also have cool patches that glow in the dark! ❖

WHAT CAUSED GIANT CRATERS?



Earth Science

People living in Russia (RUH-shuh) spotted something strange. They found three large holes in the ground that were not there before. Where did these craters come from? People thought that a bomb or an asteroid may have hit Earth. Others thought visitors from space may have made the holes.

Scientists now think they have the real answer. Some of the frozen ground melted. This is because Earth is getting warmer. As the ground melted, it gave off a kind of gas. But the gas was trapped under the ground. After a while, the gas blew up like a balloon that pops when filled with too much air. The force made the giant craters. It wasn't a visit from space. But it was still a *blast!* ❖



This giant crater was found in Russia. It is 80 meters (260 ft.) wide. It is at least 70 meters (230 ft.) deep. That's a huge hole!

Matching

Show What You Know

Draw a line from each word on the left to its definition on the right

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1. fist bump | a. small living things that can make you sick |
| 2. germs | b. when two people join hands as a greeting |
| 3. crater | c. when two people touch knuckles |
| 4. satellite | d. to move to new places |
| 5. spread | e. a machine that flies above Earth and takes pictures |
| 6. astronaut | f. a person who can work in space |
| 7. handshake | g. a hole in the ground made by an explosion or impact |



Pick a Story

With an adult's permission, submit your answer to the question below. Send an email to scienceeditors@learninga-z.com.

Which subject would you like to read about in next month's edition of *Science in the News*?



- 1: Grizzly bears
- 2: Star explosions



The story that gets more votes will be in next month's edition.

Matching Answers: 1. c, 2. a, 3. g, 4. e, 5. d, 6. f, 7. b