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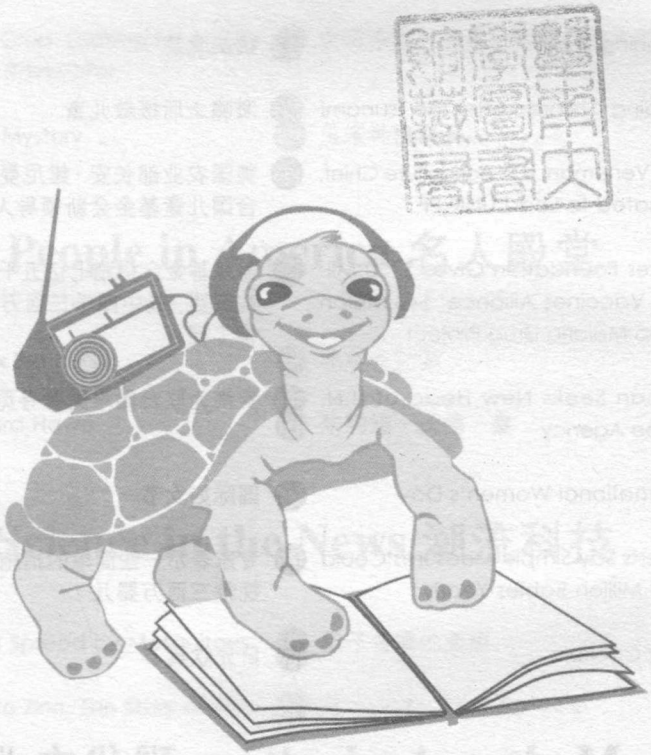

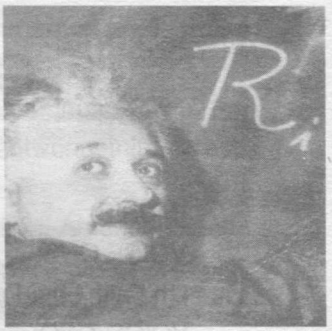

7 Explorations

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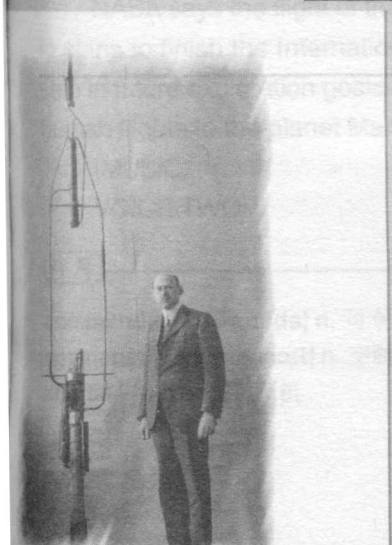

Galaxies in Space

(MUSIC)

VOICE ONE:

I'm Faith Lapidus.

VOICE TWO:

And I'm Steve Ember with EXPLORATIONS in VOA Special English. Today we report about the discovery of a number of very young **galaxies** in space. We tell about the American space agency's plan to launch a space **vehicle** designed to **crash** into a **comet**. And we have news from the planet **Saturn**. But we begin with a report about some important gifts brought to the crew of the International Space Station.

(MUSIC)

VOICE ONE:

On December twenty-fifth, a Russian **cargo** rocket linked with the International Space Station. The cargo vehicle carried two and one-half tons of food, **fuel**, **oxygen**, water and other supplies. It also carried Christ-

注释

galaxy ['gæləksi] n. 星系
vehicle ['vi:ikl] n. 交通工具
crash [kræʃ] v. 碰撞
comet ['kɔmit] n. 彗星
Saturn ['sætə(:)n] n. 土星
cargo ['kɑ:gəu] n. 船货
fuel [fjuəl] n. 燃料
oxygen ['ɔksidʒən] n. 货运飞机

mas presents for the Space Station's American **commander** Leroy Chiao and Russian **cosmonaut** Salizhan Sharipov.

The Progress M-fifty-one cargo vehicle was launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on December twenty-third.

VOICE TWO:

The M-fifty-one cargo vehicle arrived just in time. American space agency officials had said the two crewmen on the Space Station had only enough food for two more weeks. They said the two would have had to return to Earth if the supply flight had not been a success.

Russian Soyuz crew vehicles and the Progress cargo ships have been the only links to the Space Station since the Space **Shuttle** Columbia's accident in February, two-thousand-three.

VOICE ONE:

American Space Agency officials hope to launch the Space Shuttle Discovery in May. NASA finished placing the three main engines in Discovery on December eighth. Discovery and its seven-person crew are to fly to the International Space Station. Discovery will carry cargo and science experiments to the station. It will also test new safety equipment and plans. The tests will include Space Shuttle inspection and repair methods.

NASA says the flight of the Space Shuttle Discovery is the first step in plans to finish the International Space Station. It will also be the first step in future exploration goals. These include returning to the Moon and human flights to the planet Mars.

(MUSIC)

VOICE TWO:

注释

commander [kə'mɑ:ndə] n. 司令官
cosmonaut ['kɔzməunɔ:t] n. 宇航员
shuttle ['ʃʌtl] n. 航天飞机

On December twenty-fourth, the European Space Agency's Huygens exploration vehicle successfully separated from **NASA**'s Cassini spacecraft. Huygens began a three-week trip to the planet Saturn's moon, Titan.

The Huygens vehicle had been linked to the Cassini spacecraft during the almost seven-year trip to Saturn. Huygens will be the first human-made object to explore Titan. Titan has an unusual environment. Many scientists believe it may be very similar to that of the Earth before life formed. The Huygens exploration vehicle will provide information that will tell scientists if this is true.

VOICE ONE:

David Southwood is the director of science for the European Space Agency. Mister Southwood said the release of Huygens is the start of an exciting period of exploration. He thanked NASA for the Huygens's ride to Saturn. He said each spacecraft will now continue on its own. He added that Huygens will now attempt to provide the first information from a new world that scientists have dreamed of exploring for many years.

The Huygens exploration vehicle is to enter Titan's upper atmosphere on January fourteenth. Then it will begin to move down toward the surface.

Huygens will test and report about the atmosphere of Titan as it moves lower. It will send information to the Cassini spacecraft, which will then send it back to Earth. After Huygens reaches the surface of Titan, it will deploy radio equipment and communicate with Earth.

VOICE TWO:

Gathering information about Titan is one of the most important goals of the Cassini-Huygens flight. Titan is the largest of Saturn's moons and

注释

NASA ['næsə] *abbr.* National Aeronautics and Space Administration (美国)国家航空和宇宙航行局

is larger than the planets Mercury or **Pluto**. Titan is the only moon in the solar system with an important **atmosphere**.

Titan's thick atmosphere hides the surface. However, scientists have guessed that Titan's surface could have solid, liquid and muddy material. There could be lakes, seas, or rivers. But the extremely cold temperature of Titan would prevent the seas or rivers from having liquid water. Scientists say these rivers might be ice or made of some other chemicals. The Huygens exploration vehicle may soon answer some of these questions.

(MUSIC)

VOICE ONE:

Plans call for NASA to launch its Deep Impact spacecraft January twelfth from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.

The Deep Impact spacecraft will take six months to fly four hundred thirty-one million kilometers into space. It will then fly into the path of the comet Tempel-One. A comet is a relatively small frozen mass that travels around the Sun. Deep Impact will release a special science experiment that will crash into the comet. The experiment weighs three hundred seventy-two kilograms.

The great speed of the crash will create a huge hole in the comet. Huge amounts of material will be forced into space. Deep Impact will observe the event and collect information about the material from the comet. It will send information and pictures back to Earth.

VOICE TWO:

Deep Impact will not be the only instrument to observe this event. NASA's Chandra, Hubble and Spitzer space telescopes will be observing from near-Earth space. On Earth, people will also be able to see the event with the aid of a telescope. NASA officials say even a small telescope will

注释

Pluto ['plu:təu] n. 冥王星

atmosphere ['ætməsfiə] n. 大气

permit a person to see material from the comet fly into space.

VOICE ONE:

Scientists believe the material inside the comet is very similar to material formed at the beginning of the solar system. Andy Dantzler is the director of the Solar System division at NASA headquarters in Washington, D.C. Mister Dantzler says understanding conditions that led to the formation of planets is one of NASA's exploration goals. He says Deep Impact will attempt to answer questions about the beginning of our solar system.

(MUSIC)

VOICE TWO:

A galaxy is a system of about one hundred thousand million stars. Our Sun is a member of the Milky Way Galaxy. There are thousands of millions of galaxies in the observable universe. Exactly when and how galaxies formed in the Universe is a subject of current research.

NASA's Galaxy Evolution Explorer space **telescope** has discovered what appear to be a number of very young galaxies.

Chris Martin is a scientist with the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California. He is also the leading investigator for the Galaxy Evolution Explorer at the university. Mister Martin says scientists knew that huge young galaxies existed thousands of millions of years ago. But scientists thought they had all grown much older, like our own Milky Way galaxy. He says the universe may still be giving birth to new galaxies if these newly discovered galaxies are very young.

Mister Martin and other scientists in the project have discovered about thirty-six new galaxies using NASA's Galaxy Evolution Explorer. Scientists say the discovery means we can study young galaxies to see how they develop.

Tim Heckman is a scientist with Johns Hopkins University in

注释

telescope ['teliskəup] n. 望远镜

Baltimore, Maryland. He says the discovery is like finding a living animal that scientists believed had been dead for thousands of years. Mister Heckman said now we can study the ancestors to galaxies much like ours. He says the newly discovered galaxies are between one hundred million and one thousand million years old. Our Milky Way Galaxy is about ten thousand million years old.

VOICE ONE:

The Galaxy Evolution Explorer is an orbiting space telescope. It observes galaxies in **ultraviolet** light. It has been used to see light that first started moving toward earth more than ten thousand million years ago.

The Galaxy Evolution Explorer was launched in April of two thousand-three. Its main goal is to produce a map of galaxies. The Galaxy Evolution Explorer will also identify objects in far space for further study. It will also create huge amounts of information and photographs that will be given to scientists and the public. Scientists hope this will lead to new information about how our own Milky Way Galaxy was formed.

(MUSIC)

VOICE TWO:

This program was written by Paul Thompson. It was produced by Mario Ritter. I'm Steve Ember.

VOICE ONE:

And I'm Faith Lapidus. Join us again next week for another EXPLORATIONS program in VOA Special English.

注释

Baltimore ['bɔ:ltimɔ:] n. 巴尔的摩
ultraviolet ['ʌltrə'vaiəlit] adj. 紫外线的

The National Museum of Natural History

(MUSIC)

VOICE ONE:

I'm Barbara Klein.

VOICE TWO:

And I'm Steve Ember with EXPLORATIONS in VOA Special English. Today we visit the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D. C.

(MUSIC)

VOICE ONE:

"I'll meet you by the elephant." That **comment** is heard a lot in Washington, D.C. The elephant is in an unusual place. It is in the center of a large building on the **grassy** Mall area of the capital city. It is the first thing visitors see when they enter the National Museum of Natural History.

The African elephant was fifty years old when it died in **Angola** in nineteen fifty-five. It weighed eight tons. It was so large the hunter decided to give its remains to the Smithsonian Institution. Scientists at the National Museum of Natural History used the bones and skin to rebuild the elephant.

As you enter the museum, you see a huge elephant that appears to

注释

comment ['kɔment] n. 评论
grassy ['grɑ:si] adj. 绿色的
Angola [æŋ'gəulə] n. 安哥拉

be walking across the grassy area where it once lived. Visitors of all ages stop to look up in wonder at its size. Then they walk around the elephant. They read facts about the animal, hear sounds of its natural environment and watch short films. This is what makes the Natural History museum so popular. Visitors learn about the natural world in many different ways.

VOICE TWO:

The National Museum of Natural History is one of the most visited museums the world. From six million to nine million people visit the building every year. More than one million of them are international visitors. The visitors come to the museum to see many interesting things: Examples of huge ancient **dinosaurs**. Beautiful rare **diamonds** and other **jewels**. Live insects. Remains of creatures that lived in ancient seas. Ancient and present day **mammals**. Objects from African, Asian and Pacific cultures.

The museum has the largest collection of any natural history museum in the world. There are more than one hundred twenty-five million objects in its collection.

Scientists have been collecting these **specimens** for almost two hundred years. The collection keeps growing as scientists working for the museum continue to explore and collect around the world.

(MUSIC)

VOICE ONE:

The National Museum of Natural History opened in nineteen ten. It

注释

dinosaur ['dainəsɔ:] n. 恐龙
diamond ['daiəmənd] n. 钻石
jewel ['dʒu:əl] n. 宝石
mammal ['mæməl] n. 哺乳动物
specimen ['spesimin] n. 标本

was the third museum to be created as part of the Smithsonian Institution. It is a center for the study of humans and their natural surroundings through history. So the museum's collection includes specimens of animals, plants, rocks, ancient and present day organisms, and objects related to human development.

Through the years, how the collection is shown to the public has changed. The newest **exhibit** is about the history of mammals in the world. The purpose of the new Hall of Mammals is to show how all mammals, including humans, are related. Almost three hundred mammals that look very life-like are shown in their different natural environments.

While seeing realistic- looking animals found in Africa, visitors hear sounds of a violent rainstorm around them. Adults look up on the wall to see a video of a **giraffe**, **zebras** and a **hippo** around a water hole. At the same time, children look down at the floor to see a video of what small animals are doing under ground.

VOICE TWO:

Hans Sues is the associate director for Research and Collections. He is the chief scientist at the museum. Mister Sues says the specimens collected through the years help scientists find out how animals and plant life developed. The scientists learn by using new technologies such as DNA research on the specimens. Or they learn by just being able to study older specimens.

For example, some fishermen and scientists were concerned about spots they found on sea animals called **crabs**. They wondered if human-

注释

exhibit [ig'zibit] n. 展品
giraffe [dʒi'rɑ:f] n. 长颈鹿
zebra ['zi:brə] n. 斑马
hippo ['hipəu] n. 河马
crab [kræb] n. 螃蟹

made pollution caused the spots. So they looked at the museum's specimens of crabs collected almost one hundred years ago. Some of them had the same spots. This was evidence that the spots happened naturally.

No one can observe the changes in our natural world during hundreds of years. So the collections of the National Museum of Natural History, and other natural history museums, are the only way for scientists to observe these changes over time.

(MUSIC)

VOICE ONE:

Scientists working for the Natural History museum are doing research in fifty to one hundred countries at any time. Mister Sues says museum scientists have been almost every place on Earth. Through their research they continue to find new information about the natural world and its people, animals and plants.

For example, in two thousand three, a team of scientists explored the little known islands of Kula Ring, near New Guinea. They found three new kinds of fish, five new kinds of insects called **damselflies**, and sixty new kinds of water bugs.

Other museum scientists have made recent discoveries about the earliest history of the solar system, early man, and the continuing damage to **coral reefs**. Mister Sues says there are many more discoveries to be made. This is because there is so much to learn about the four thousand million years of this planet's history.

Each year museum scientists report their research findings in more than seven hundred scientific publications. They report important discov-

注释

damselfly ['dæmzəlflai] n. 蜻蛉
coral ['kɔrəl] n. 珊瑚
reef [ri:f] n. 暗礁

eries to the public in newspapers, popular magazines and on television. Now, the huge worldwide expansion of the Internet is making it possible for people around the world to get this information.

(MUSIC)

VOICE TWO:

Millions of people who are unable to visit the National Museum of Natural History in Washington can see part of the museum's collection on computers. In the future, museum officials hope to make it possible for people to use computers to explore all of the museum.

Robert Sullivan is associate director for Public Programs for the National Museum of Natural History. He says museum officials are excited about how the Internet is expanding the reach of the museum and what it can offer.

Mister Sullivan says that for years museum officials have known that learning by doing is the best way to teach people. He says the new **broadband** computer technology will make that kind of learning possible. People will be able to take "virtual tours" of the museum. They will be able to use computers to walk through exhibits, move and measure objects, visit scientific laboratories and ask questions of scientists. Mister Sullivan says the new Internet technology will let museum officials create a space to explore, not just offer pictures and words.

VOICE ONE:

The Website of the National Museum of Natural History — www.mnh.si.edu —offers a lot of information. For example, you can go to the museum Web site to find out about the Earth and how it changes. By typing in "The Dynamic Earth", you can read about how rocks tell the

注释

broadband ['brɔ:dbænd] 宽带

history of the Earth. You can see the famous jewel called the Hope Diamond. Soon you will be able to learn about volcanoes.

If you are interested in animals, you can go to the North American Mammals site. It is a guide to the living mammals of North America with detailed descriptions and images of more than four hundred animals.

Or you can find out about Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. They explored the western part of the United States in the early nineteenth century. Computer users can follow the path the two explorers took and learn about the plants and animals they found.

VOICE TWO:

The museum Web site is very popular with computer users and will become more so as it expands. Yet the real museum building will not be forgotten. Museum officials say a visit to the National Museum of Natural History will continue to be a family education experience.

They are developing new ways to make the exhibits provide a learning experience that works in many different ways. The next major change in the exhibit space is in progress now. Near the elephant, a large new exhibit is being built that will show why the ocean is important to understanding the natural world. Ocean Hall will open in two thousand eight. It will use the newest technology to help people of all ages learn about life in the ocean.

8 发展报道 Development Report

Canning Food

I'm Gwen Outen with the VOA Special English Development Report.

People have always had to find ways to keep food safe to eat. Methods to dry, smoke and salt food were invented thousands of years ago. The process of canning is much more recent. This storage method keeps food safe to eat for long periods of time. Today, canning is one of the most popular methods of storing food.

Canning uses heat to kill **bacteria** and other micro-organisms that cause **poisons** to form in food. Canning also takes away the air that these organisms need to live. One popular method of canning uses a water bath.

Clean fruits or vegetables are placed in glass bottles. The food can be put into the bottles either hot or cold. The cold method is used for soft fruits and vegetables that could lose their shape or taste. Firmer fruits and most vegetables are usually cooked. They take up less space in the bottles.

After the food has been placed in glass bottles, boiling water is **poured** into the bottles to about three centimeters below the top. Then covers are placed on the bottles, but are not turned all the way. The bottles are placed in a large container filled with warm water that is then brought to a boil.

The water must completely cover the bottles, from three to five centimeters over the top. When the water boils, any air in the bottles will be **expelled**. The boiling continues for several minutes. Then the bottles are

注释

bacteria [bæk'tiəriə] n. 细菌
poison ['pɔizn] n. 毒药
pour [pɔ:] v. 灌注
expel [iks'pel] v. 排出

【发展报道】