

News: Readers' choice

The most read news stories of 2011.

16 December 2011

Quantum mechanics, particle physics and quirky biology are the big winners in our line up of the most popular news stories from 2011.

- **1. Moving mirrors make light from nothing**
Researchers claim to have produced sought-after quantum effect.
3 June 2011
- **2. Particles break light-speed limit**
Neutrino results challenge cornerstone of modern physics.
22 September 2011
- **3. Yeti crab grows its own food**
Deep-sea species farms bacteria on its own claws.
2 December 2011
- **4. How the penis lost its spikes**
Humans ditched DNA to evolve smooth penises and bigger brains.
9 March 2011
- **5. Gene therapy can protect against HIV**
An introduced gene conveys long-lived resistance to HIV infection in mice.
30 November 2011
- **6. Quantum theorem shakes foundations**
The wavefunction is a real physical object after all, say researchers.
17 November 2011
- **7. Did Vikings navigate by polarized light?**
'Sunstone' crystals may have helped seafarers to find the Sun on cloudy days.
31 January 2011
- **8. Human cell becomes living laser**
Jellyfish protein amplifies light in first biological laser.
12 June 2011
- **9. Beautiful theory collides with smashing particle data**
Latest results from the LHC are casting doubt on the theory of supersymmetry.
28 February 2011
- **10. Faster-than-light neutrinos face time trial**

Did gravity mess with the clocks that measured particles breaking cosmic speed limit?

5 October 2011

Nature | doi:10.1038/nature.2011.9643