

# News: Readers' choice of 2013

The 10 most-read news stories of the year.

16 December 2013

The most popular news stories on our website this year included viruses so large that they rival a bacterium, one of the longest-running experiments in history and how our Universe could have been created in the collapse of a four-dimensional star.



## 1. Simulations back up theory that Universe is a hologram

A ten-dimensional theory of gravity makes the same predictions as standard quantum physics in fewer dimensions.

10 December 2013



## 2. Quantum gas goes below absolute zero

Ultracold atoms pave way for negative-Kelvin materials.

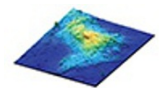
3 January 2013



## 3. World's slowest-moving drop caught on camera at last

Once-forgotten 'tar pitch' experiment yields results after seven decades.

18 July 2013



## 4. Underwater volcano is Earth's biggest

Tamu Massif rivals the size of Olympus Mons on Mars.

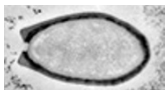
5 September 2013



## 5. Did a hyper-black hole spawn the Universe?

Big Bang was mirage from collapsing higher-dimensional star, theorists propose.

13 September 2013



## 6. Giant viruses open Pandora's box

Genome of largest viruses yet discovered hints at 'fourth domain' of life.

18 July 2013



### 7. Mystery humans spiced up ancients' sex lives

Genome analysis suggests there was interbreeding between modern humans, Neanderthals, Denisovans and an unknown archaic population.

19 November 2013



### 8. Animal-rights activists wreak havoc in Milan laboratory

University says loss of animals and lab records may ruin years of work on psychiatric diseases.

22 April 2013



### 9. Large magma reservoir gets bigger

But earthquakes, not eruptions, are Yellowstone's most serious geological risk.

28 October 2013



### 10. Long-lost continent found under the Indian Ocean

Sand from Mauritian beaches reveals rock from ancient landmass.

24 February 2013

*Nature* | doi:10.1038/nature.2013.14346

*Nature* ISSN 0028-0836 EISSN 1476-4687

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