

THE LITTLE EXPLORER

WEEKLY

"The day's news, for everyone at the table."

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TOP STORY • THE PACIFIC OCEAN

The Ocean Is Running a Fever

A big patch of warm water called El Niño is growing in the Pacific Ocean.

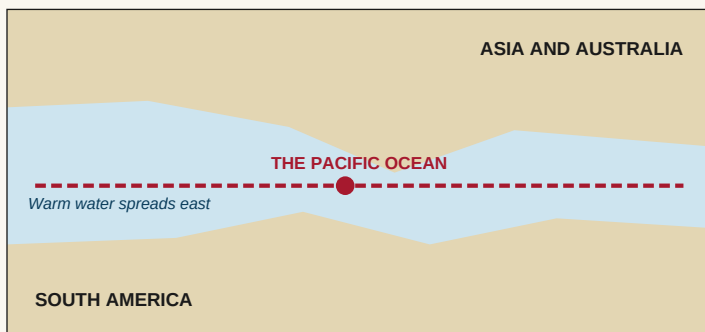
Written and fact-checked by AI • News Pebbles

The Pacific is the biggest ocean on Earth. Every few years, its winds get weaker. Then warm water spreads across it, all the way to South America.

Scientists call this El Niño. The name means "the boy" in Spanish.

Scientists check the water's temperature every day. In 2015 there was a very strong El Niño. This one is on track to be even stronger, the strongest ever measured.

They think the ocean will stay extra warm until February.



El Niño warms the water between these lands.

WHY IT MATTERS

A warm ocean changes the weather in faraway places. Some places get more rain. Others get less. Knowing early helps farmers and towns get ready.

WORLD • THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

A Judge Wins a Peace Prize

Navi Pillay spent her life working for fair rules.

Navi Pillay grew up in South Africa. Her father drove a bus. Back then, the laws there treated people unfairly because of the colour of their skin.

Her family's roots are in India. Long ago, many Indian families sailed to South Africa to work on sugar-cane farms.

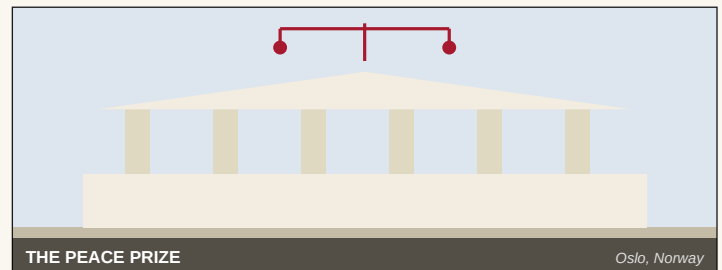
She became a lawyer and fought those laws. Later she became a judge. A judge listens to both sides and decides what is fair.

As a judge, she worked on cases about people who did terrible things in wars. She believed even the most powerful people should have to answer to a court.

This week she won the Nobel Peace Prize. It is one of the most famous prizes in the world.

At first she could not believe the news. "I thought it must be a joke," she said.

She will get her prize on December 10 in Oslo, a city in Norway.



The prize is handed out in December.

WHY IT MATTERS

Rules only help if they are fair to everyone. Navi Pillay showed how one person can help change unfair rules.

UNITED STATES • HURRICANE ISAIAS

A Hurricane Reaches Florida

Isaias brought strong winds and heavy rain.

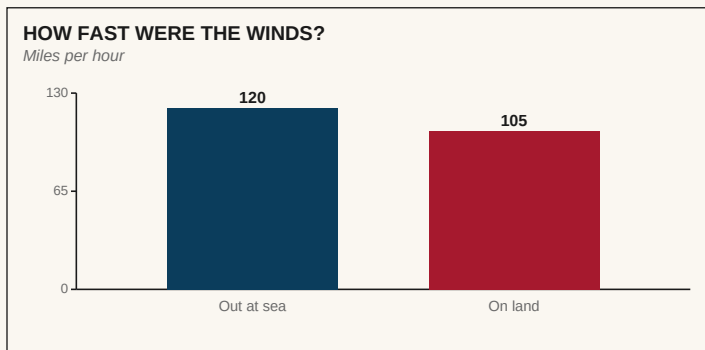
A hurricane is a giant spinning storm that grows over warm sea water. Isaias was the first hurricane of the year in the Atlantic Ocean.

Hurricane Hunters are pilots who fly special planes right into storms to measure them. Out at sea, they found Isaias's winds blowing at 120 miles an hour.

It reached land in Florida on Friday night with winds of 105 miles an hour. Scientists sort hurricanes into five groups, called categories. That made Isaias a Category 2. Category 5 is the strongest.

Its winds knocked down trees and power lines, and many families lost electricity. Sadly, a few people died.

By Saturday the storm was much weaker. Workers from nearly 25 states came to fix the power lines.



Storms get weaker when they move onto land.

WHY IT MATTERS

Storms lose strength over land because they need warm water to grow. That is why the winds slowed down when Isaias reached Florida.

ONE-LINE BRIEFS

- Panama: A strong earthquake shook the country. Many homes were damaged, and teams are helping families.
- Books: Anne Carson, a poet from Canada, won the Nobel Prize in Literature.

SCIENCE & TECH • NOBEL PRIZE IN MEDICINE

Borrowing a Light Switch From Pond Life

Three scientists won a prize for turning brain cells on with light.

Some tiny green living things in ponds can sense light. They are so small that you need a microscope to see one. They use their light sensor to swim toward sunlight, which they need to make food.

Scientists found the special part that lets them sense light. Then they put that part into brain cells. Now a flash of light can switch those cells on.

This helps scientists learn how the brain works. Scientists all over the world now use this light switch.

Two of the prize winners are from Germany, and one is from the United States. They won a Nobel Prize on Monday and will receive it in December.

WHY IT MATTERS

The brain has billions of cells. Switching on one kind at a time helps scientists see what each kind does, like flipping one light switch at a time in a big house.

VOCABULARY BUILDER

New words this time

Hurricane

A huge spinning storm with very strong winds. Today: Hurricane Isaias reached Florida.

Judge

A person who listens to both sides and decides what is fair. Today: Navi Pillay was a judge.

Cell

A tiny living building block. Your body has trillions. Today: light can switch on brain cells.

Keep exploring. See you next week.