



THE LITTLE EXPLORER

WEEKLY



SCAN TO READ & PLAY

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

Vol. 1 • No. 2 • Saturday, October 17, 2026 • Washington, USA • 2 Pages

TOP STORY • THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ

Fewer Ships Get Through a Narrow Sea

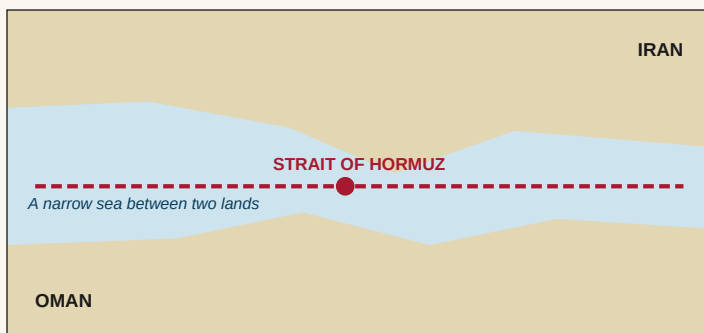
A narrow sea beside Iran is still very busy and very tricky.

Written and fact-checked by AI • News Pebbles

A strait is a narrow strip of sea between two pieces of land. The Strait of Hormuz is beside a country called Iran. Big ships carry oil through it.

Last week we asked: would more ships get through, or fewer? The answer is fewer. A company that tracks oil said about two thirds as much oil got through this week as usual.

It linked this to more military action by Iran nearby. UK officials said ships have been attacked there. When less oil gets out, oil costs more. This week one barrel cost about \$108.



Ships squeeze through the gap between them.

WHY IT MATTERS

Oil becomes fuel for trucks and cars. When oil costs more, fuel and some other things can cost more too.

WORLD • THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

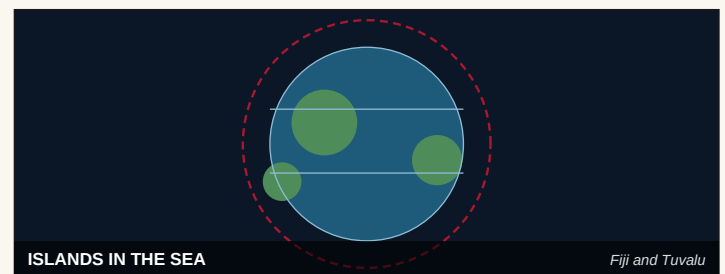
Island Countries Plan for a Big Meeting

Fiji and Tuvalu helped get ready for a climate summit.

Fiji and Tuvalu are island countries in the Pacific Ocean. A group met in a city called Nadi, in Fiji, from October 5 to 8.

They were getting ready for a big climate meeting called COP31. It is a meeting about how to look after our planet's weather.

COP31 will be held in a city called Antalya, in Türkiye, from November 9 to 20. Tuvalu's representative warned that a goal to stop the planet from warming too much is in danger.



Island countries are surrounded by ocean.

WHY IT MATTERS

Islands are surrounded by sea, so changes to the ocean matter a lot to the people who live there.

UNITED STATES • VOTING

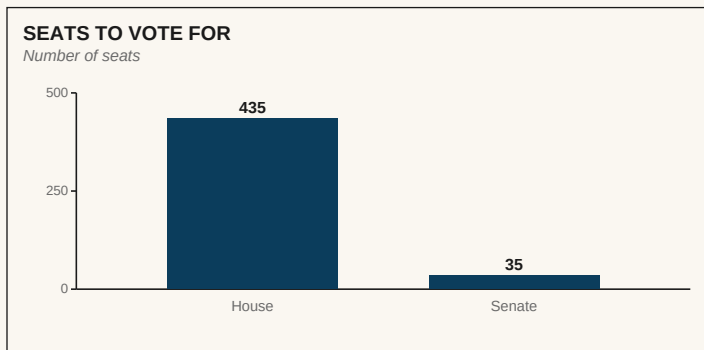
Grown-Ups Will Vote for Congress

Election Day is November 3.

Congress is the group of people who make laws for the United States. It has two parts. One is called the House. The other is called the Senate.

On November 3, grown-ups will vote for all 435 people in the House. They will also vote for 35 of the 100 people in the Senate.

A vote is a way to choose who will speak for you. The winners decide which party leads each part of Congress.



All 435 House seats and 35 Senate seats.

WHY IT MATTERS

Voting lets people have a say in the rules everyone follows.

ONE-LINE BRIEFS

- Saudi Arabia: The football league moved three games, including one for Cristiano Ronaldo's team.
- Austria: Scientists in Vienna built a clock that fixes itself.

SCIENCE & TECH • SPACE

A Planet With a Lopsided Sky

A space telescope helped scientists see the uneven edge of a faraway planet's air.

WASP-17b is a very hot planet far, far away. It is about 1,300 light-years from Earth. A light-year is how far light travels in a whole year.

Scientists used a space telescope called Webb. They measured how far the planet's air stretches out at many points around its edge.

The edge is lopsided. The air reaches farther on the evening side of the planet. The morning side is cooler. Winds carry heat from the sunny side to the dark side.

WHY IT MATTERS

Studying faraway planets helps us learn how weather works on Earth too.

VOCABULARY BUILDER

New words this time

Strait

A narrow strip of sea between two pieces of land. Today: Ships squeeze through the Strait of Hormuz.

Planet

A big round world that goes around a star. Today: WASP-17b is a planet far from Earth.

Vote

A way to choose something, like a leader. Today: Grown-ups will vote for Congress on November 3.

Keep exploring. See you next week.