NEWS PEBBLES

THE LITTLE EXPLORER • WEEKEND NEWS POSTER • AGES 6-8

Saturday, 31 October 2026 | Two stories. A world to discover.

DISCOVERY • SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

Cave walls hold ancient clues

Tiny traces of DNA offer a new way to study the past.

Scientists studied 11 painted caves in Spain and Portugal. They looked for tiny traces of people who lived long ago.

They took more than 100 samples. Five contained human DNA. DNA is a tiny set of instructions inside living things. Only one of those five samples came from a painting.

The clues are exciting, but they do not tell us who painted the pictures. The DNA could come from someone who was near the rock much later.



Illustration: collecting a wall sample, not the actual cave.



Find Spain and Portugal in Europe. The caves are in both countries.

WHY IT MATTERS DNA might one day help scientists learn more about the people behind ancient art.

SPACE • TITAN

A practice flight for another moon

Dragonfly tries its first flight in a computer, not in space.

NASA plans to send Dragonfly, a robot helicopter, to Titan. Titan is a moon of Saturn. The helicopter will not leave Earth before 2028.

The team tried a first flight inside a computer. This is called a simulation. In that pretend flight, Dragonfly scanned the ground for a safe place, then landed.

Titan is far away. The flyer must make decisions on its own. Practising helps the team test how it will react.

A COMPUTER FLIGHT, STEP BY STEP

1. Practise in a computer
2. Scan for a safe place
3. Land in the simulation

This happened in a simulation. Dragonfly has not flown on Titan.

WHY IT MATTERS Testing a pretend flight helps engineers prepare a robot for a distant world.

THE PEBBLE REPORTERS



Tara & Leo are fictional reporters. Illustrations explain the news; they are not photographs.