

Read Aloud - 1

In somatic cell nuclear transfer — the technical term for cloning — a cell is copied by transferring its nucleus into a donated egg cell whose own nucleus has been removed. A quick electric shock stimulates the egg to start dividing, and because its nucleus comes from an adult cell — and therefore has two strands of DNA instead of the single strand normally found in an egg — it doesn't need a sperm to become an embryo. After dividing for a few days, the mass consists of embryonic stem cells that are theoretically capable of becoming an organism that is genetically identical to the one it came from.

Read Aloud - 2

Mental illness affects millions of Americans. Many people with bipolar disorder, depression, and schizophrenia suffer hallucinations, the perception of something that is not present. From phantom smells to hearing voices and seeing things that are not there, hallucinations can take many forms and stem from many causes. It's not just mental illness, either. Strokes, migraines and inner ear diseases can also lead to hallucinations. And obviously, psychedelic drugs do as well.

Read Aloud - 3

Foraminifera are single-celled zooplankton. The animals come in a huge variety of shapes — stars, twisting cones, coils that resemble snail shells and circular blobs. But they all have a hard outer shell. Once buried in the seafloor, the shells remain well preserved. By examining these fossils, scientists can tell what plankton communities looked like before climate change affected ocean temperatures.

Read Aloud - 4

Cosmetic surgery is defined as a surgical specialty dedicated to enhancing a patient's appearance and/or removing signs of aging. Improving aesthetic appeal, symmetry, and proportion are the key goals. Cosmetic surgery can be performed on all parts of the body. In the last few years, undergoing cosmetic surgery has become a trend in certain classes of society.

Read Aloud - 5

Even the mystical stuff had a mundane quality for those of us who didn't know anything else. The Ouija board, for instance, was a regular part of our lives. Shelves were lined with notebooks containing transcriptions of the conversations adults had had with various spirits. We kids were allowed to talk to only one spirit, Faedra, and sometimes after dinner we'd gather around the board to summon her. The Ouija board was hand carved, the woodgrain beautifully polished, the pointer covered in purple velvet.

Read Aloud - 6

Scientists have long been aware of the relationship between insufficient sleep and poor cardiovascular health. However, exactly how the lack of adequate sleep can harm circulation has remained unclear. A new study now uncovers some of the potential mechanisms.

Read Aloud - 7

When an individual arrives at a facility, doctors usually prescribe psychotropic medications. The patient also receives talking therapies, such as psychotherapy. Doctors monitor and tweak drug and therapy regimes until the patient improves enough to leave their care. These facilities are often cramped, and patients often find them stressful.

Read Aloud - 8

The mammoths and other species that died out by the end of that period didn't see climate change coming. But we can. That's why human-driven climate change is our top story of the year. The rising tide of attribution studies shows that climbing temperatures are already turning extreme events, such as Hurricane Florence, more extreme.

Read Aloud - 9

H₂O. Is there any other molecule so vital, and so problematic, for people? Without water, agriculture vanishes and power plants grind to a halt. In other places, floods wreak havoc. Millions of people every year die from drinking contaminated water. To help solve these challenges related to freshwater, scientists in many disciplines are applying new tools and techniques.

Read Aloud - 10

Stem cells are the closest thing science has to a fountain of youth, which helps explain the hope—and hype—surrounding them. Technically, a stem cell is one that, when it divides, can make not only a copy of its immature self but also more specialized daughter cells. The body has hundreds of types of stem cells.