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Why do you sound like a human?

Researchers investigating why humans have a greater range of sounds than other primates have made an important discovery. All primate species have a vocal membrane over their vocal cords, this acts like a clarinet reed and causes the high pitched screams associated with many primate species.



At some point in humans evolutionary journey this vocal membrane was lost. This allows humans to generate a much more controlled tone and produce the sounds which are the building blocks of language.

Explore the research How we speak

The evolution of speech



All primates, apart from humans, were found to have a vocal membrane which limits their control over the sounds they can produce.

The tones produced when air from the lungs is pushed through the vocal cords is then shaped by the mouth and tongue into the complex sounds needed for speech.

Webb Watch

Over the summer the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) went from being an exciting possibility to be a phenomenal reality.

With the mirrors aligned and the instruments cooled to below -230°C the JWST started collecting its first real data. The results were better than anyone had anticipated.



The Cosmic Cliffs of the Carina Nebula is a Stellar Nebula where new stars are born.

Stephan's Quintet is a cluster of 5 galaxies from which we will be able to understand how galactic interactions may have driven galaxy evolution in the early universe.





Webb's First Deep Field shows thousands of galaxies and some of the furthest objects ever seen .

JWST Image Gallery

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My Science Club

Topical Science Updates have a new home. From now on you'll be able to download each new update from the brand new ***My Science Club*** website.

My Science Club is my new and exciting project with Bryony Turford – we have been working on it for over a year now and we're incredibly proud of everything we've done to get it to launch. We hope you'll enjoy it too.

www.myscienceclub.com

My Science Club is an exciting new resource for educators, providing innovative and engaging science club packs for children of all ages.

A years subscription will cost £49.99 and will give members the ability to download six complete My Science Club packs, each containing six themed sessions.

Members will also be able to access a range of additional resources linked to running a brilliant science club wherever you are.

