

NEWS

ENTERTAINMENT & TRENDS

SPORTS

2012
2013

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

WEATHER

POLITICS



Re-election President Barack Obama was sworn in for his second term as president at the US Capitol in Washington, D.C. on January 21, 2013. The president was re-elected on November 6, 2012.



Superstorm Sandy In late October 2012, Hurricane Sandy devastated portions of the Caribbean, the Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern United States. The storm became the largest Atlantic hurricane on record (in diameter) with winds spanning 1,100 miles.



Colorado Wildfires In June and July 2012, Colorado faced its most destructive wildfires in history. At least 34,500 residents were forced to evacuate while thousands of acres were destroyed by several blazes.



The Coldest Journey On January 7th, 2013 British explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes and his team of five sailed off from the port of Cape Town, to begin the first leg of "The Coldest Journey"—a never done before 2,300-mile trek across Antarctica where temperatures dip as low as -90° C (-130°F). The group's goal is to complete the journey and raise \$10 million for "Seeing is Believing" a charity whose mission is to eradicate blindness.

Image credit: "The Coldest Journey"

Heroine Malala In 2012, Time Magazine nominated Malala Yousafzai for person of the year (she received runner up). The 15-year-old Pakistani schoolgirl spoke out for girls' rights to an education and survived an assassination attempt on her life by the Taliban in October. She has become an admired children's-rights advocate and symbol of the struggle for women's rights all over the world.



Joy Regardless of political stance, no one can deny the joy felt seeing troops come home safely. **WelcomeHomeBlog.com** celebrates these amazing homecoming reunions with heartwarming stories, videos and pictures of members of our armed forces returning to surprise their families and friends.

2012 2013

Popular Box Office

Brave

Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted

Dr. Seuss' The Lorax

Wreck-It Ralph

Ice Age: Continental Drift

Hotel Transylvania

Journey 2: The Mysterious Island

Life of Pi

Rise of the Guardians

Parental Guidance



(Right) Kelly McDonald was the voice of Merida in the Disney/Pixar film *Brave*.

(Left) Jada Pinkett Smith voiced Gloria the Hippo in DreamWorks Animation's *Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted*.



Popular DVD Rentals

ParaNorman

Brave

The Odd Life of Timothy Green

Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted

Doggie B

Dr. Seuss' The Lorax

Thunderstruck

Back to the Sea

Beverly Hills Chihuahua 3

The Pirates! Band of Misfits



Justin Bieber Bieber Fever was going strong at the American Music Awards. Justin took home all three prizes that he was nominated for and was the most "tweeted" celebrity of 2012.



Celeb Gone Good Country-pop star Taylor Swift had a banner year. She received numerous American Music and Grammy award and was named the No. 1 "celeb gone good" by DoSomething.org for 2012. TSwift also became the youngest person to ever receive the Ripple of Hope Award from the Robert F. Kennedy Center awards because of her many charitable donations and tremendous work for young people battling cancer.



Good-byes Astronaut Neil Armstrong, the first person to walk on the moon, died August 25, 2012. A sad farewell was also bid to the following notable personalities: Dick Clark, Michael Clarke Duncan (the voice of Commander Vachir in *Kung Fu Panda*), and Whitney Houston.

Wii U

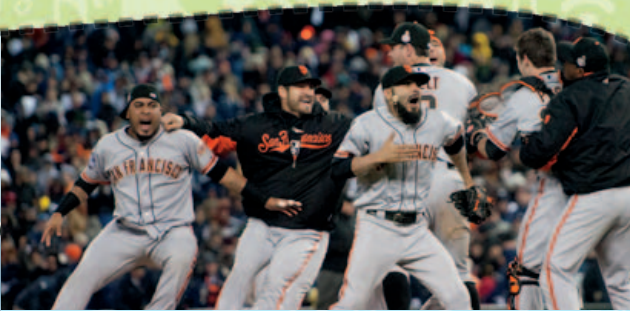
The Wii U video game console from Nintendo was released in November 2012. The Wii U was the first Nintendo console to support high-definition graphics. It featured a touch-screen controller that looked and acted like a tablet.



Sony Tablet S Tablets continued to make waves with the introduction of many new versions in 2012-13. Popular choices included the Apple iPad, Google Nexus, Sony S (pictured), Microsoft Surface, Amazon Kindle Fire and Barnes & Noble Nook.

2012 Summer Olympics

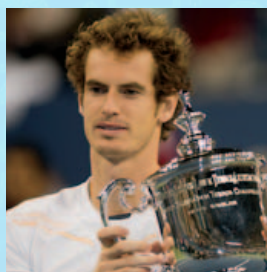
The 2012 Summer Olympics were held in London, United Kingdom from July 27 to August 12, 2012. Team USA brought home 104 medals, 46 of them gold, the most of any country participating. For the first time in it's Olympic history, the United States was represented by more female than male athletes.



2012 World Series In October 2012, the San Francisco Giants celebrated their win over the Detroit Tigers, defeating the Tigers 4-3 in game 4 of the World Series.

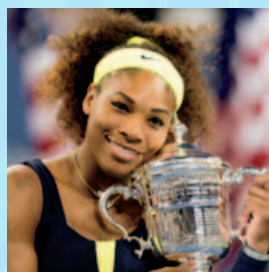


Super Bowl XLVII The Baltimore Ravens celebrated their 34-31 win over the San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl XLVII on February 3, 2013. Baltimore Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco was named MVP.



Men's US Open

In the men's finals of the US Open Tennis Championship in September 2012, Andy Murray defeated Novak Djokovic.



Women's US Open

In September 2012, Serena Williams defeated Victoria Azarenka in the women's finals of the US Open Tennis Championship.



Stanley Cup The Los Angeles Kings defeated the New Jersey Devils in Game 6 of the Stanley Cup Final on June 11, 2012.

The Fierce Five Also known as the Fab Five, the US women's gymnastics team won the second ever gold medal for the United States in the women's team competition at the 2012 Summer Olympics. Left to right: Kayla Maroney, Kyla Ross, Alexandra Raisman, Gabby Douglas, and Jordyn Wieber.



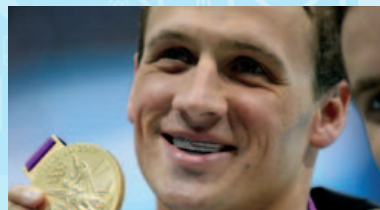
Women's Track

Allyson Felix, Carmelita Jeter, Bianca Knight and Tianna Madison won the gold medal in the 4x100 relay with a world record time of 40.82 seconds.



Women's Swim Team

Allison Schmitt, Dana Vollmer, Shannon Vreeland and Missy Franklin won the gold medal in the 4x100 medley relay, setting a new world record at 3:52:05.

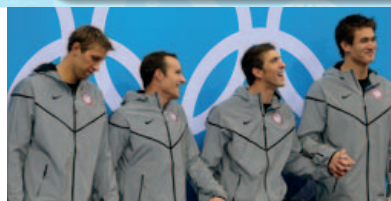


Ryan Lochte

Lochte beat teammate Michael Phelps to take home the gold in the 400m individual medley. Phelps went on to become the first male swimmer to win the same individual event at three straight Olympics, capturing the 200-meter IM.

Men's Swim Team

From Left: Matthew Grevers, Brendan Hansen, Michael Phelps and Nathan Adrian, gold medal winners of the men's 4x100 medley relay.



NBA Championship

(Left) The Miami Heat defeated the Oklahoma City Thunder, 121-106 in Game 5 of the NBA championship.



NASCAR

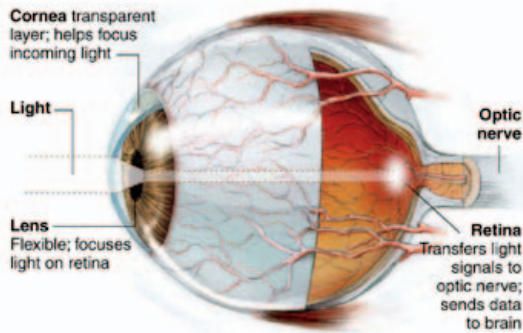
In November 2012, Brad Keselowski won the Sprint Cup championship during the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Ford EcoBoost 400 at the Homestead Miami Speedway.





This artist's concept shows the sky crane maneuver during the descent of NASA's Curiosity rover to the Martian surface. Image credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech

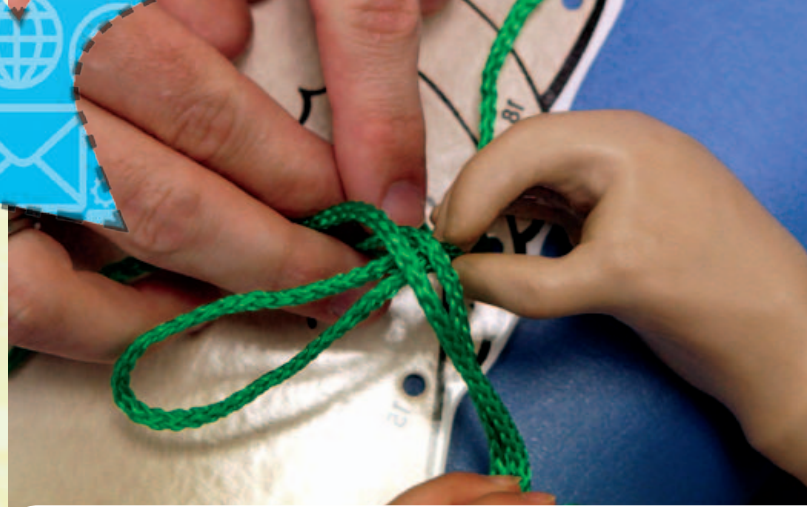
Futuristic Spacecraft The largest and most advanced spacecraft ever sent to another planet, landed successfully on Mars in August 2012. The "Curiosity" robot is equipped with technology that could potentially pave the way for human exploration.



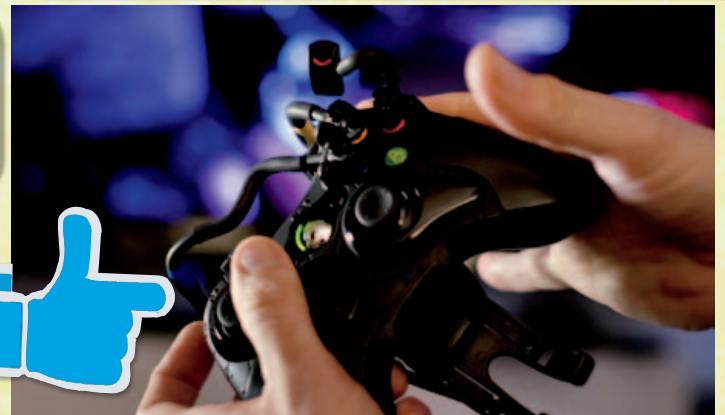
Vision of the Future In 2012, Scientists took an important step towards helping visually impaired people lead independent lives. An Australian woman received a bionic eye transplant at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital that partially restored her sight. This breakthrough could restore vision for millions.



Sneezing Monkey The International Institute for Species Exploration at Arizona State University announced its list of top 10 newly discovered species for 2012. The list included a snub-nosed monkey that has a distinctive white beard and sneezes when it rains.



Synthetic Skin A team of Stanford researchers has created the first synthetic material that is both self-healing at room temperature and sensitive to touch—a breakthrough that could be used to enhance prosthetics or even be used for human-like robot skin.



Gamers Win Scientists from University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston tested avid video gamers in high school and college against a group of its medical residents to compare surgical capability. The study used a machine that replicated surgery techniques to measure the users' competency. The high school students came in first, college students second and UTMB residents last.



Seven Pandas

In 2012, seven baby panda cubs were born in a 3-month time span at a research and conservation facility in Sichuan Province, China. This successful breeding is hoped to help this endangered species estimated to have fewer than 1,600 left in the wild.