

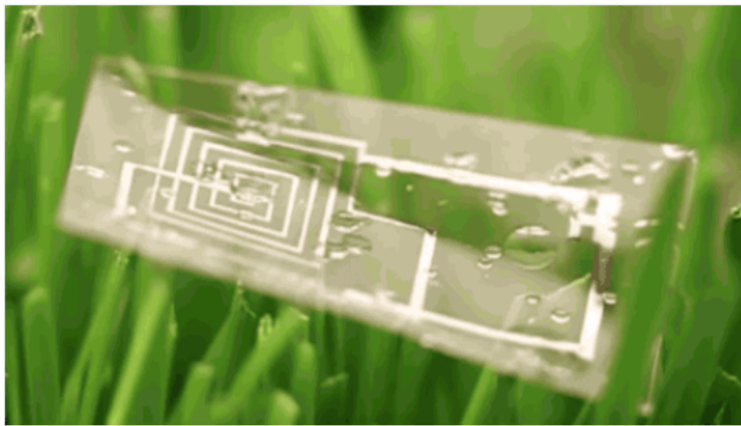


Surprising Science

December 24, 2013

The Coolest Science of 2013, in GIFs

Like 3.1k | Tweet 913 | REDDIT | DIGG | STUMBLE | EMAIL | MORE



An electronic circuit that dissolves in the presence of water. From video by University of Illinois

If a picture's worth a thousand words, a GIF is easily worth a million. The [file format](#)—which uses a series of images to produce a looping video, like a flip book—is a tremendous way to convey all sorts of moving wonders, and 2013 was the year that the GIF truly went mainstream, with GIFs of celebrities, sports and politicians filling the Web.

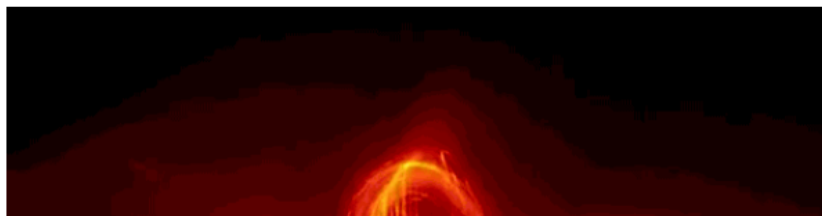
But 2013 was also a banner year for science—so much so that the word ‘science’ was Merriam-Webster’s word of the year. It’s appropriate, then, that we use the GIF to explore some of the coolest, weirdest, most remarkable science stories of 2013. What follows is a non-exhaustive list of amazing science GIFs from 2013, in no particular order.

Top: Dissolving Electronics

Over the past few years, the University of Illinois lab led by John Rogers (one of *Smithsonian* magazine’s American Ingenuity Award Winners) has engineered all sorts of amazing devices that bridge the gap between biology and technology: stretchable batteries that could be used in wearable gadgets or medical implants, tiny LEDs that can be implanted in the brain to manipulate individual neurons and ultrathin electronics that can graft circuits onto human skin.

Perhaps the most amazing creation, though, is their entirely dissolvable electronic circuit, which could someday be used in environmental monitoring and medical devices so that circuitry disappears after it’s no longer needed.

A Solar Eruption



Advertisement

We're ready to take on your challenges

Get some advice
Find a financial professional.

Find now >

Learn more about the challenge of living longer >

Follow Us

Facebook | Twitter | Google+ | YouTube | RSS | Email