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How Children  
First Learn to See

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Evil Genius of  
Tuberculosis

# SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

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# To Seek Out New Life

Watching exoplanet skies for signs  
that something is out there

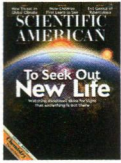
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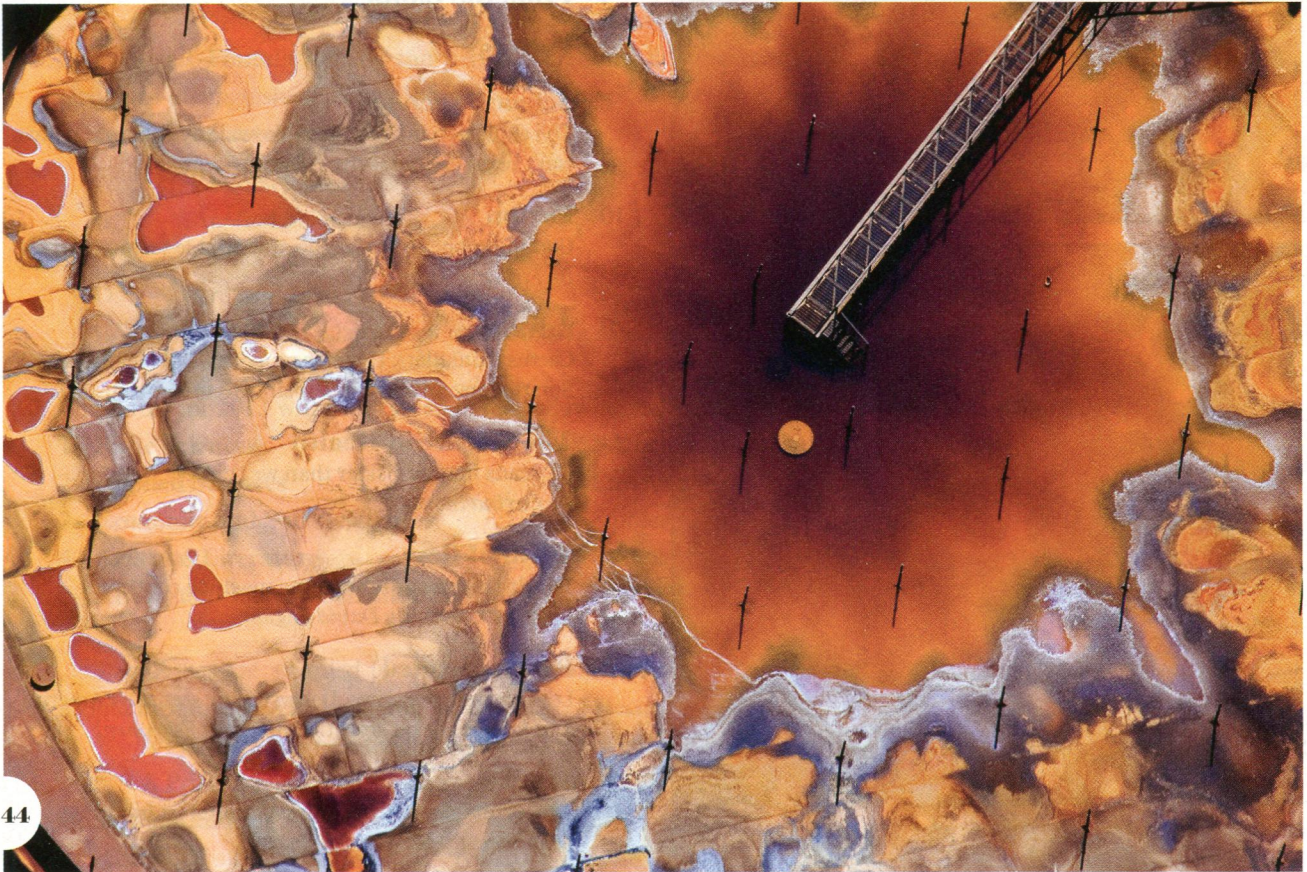
JULY 2013



Scientists recently thought it would take decades before they could examine the atmospheres around distant planets—that the host star's blinding light would overwhelm any useful observations. Yet ambitious young astronomers have devised clever new techniques that are now providing the first clear look into the skies of worlds beyond our solar system. Image by Don Foley.

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Peering for the first time into the atmospheres of distant planets, scientists hope to find signs of extraterrestrial life. *By Michael D. Lemonick*

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The Gulf oil spill never reached the western coast of Florida because oceanic currents acted as an invisible barrier. By understanding such chaotic phenomena, mathematicians hope to gain insight into climate, blood flow and turbulent fluids. *By Dana Mackenzie*

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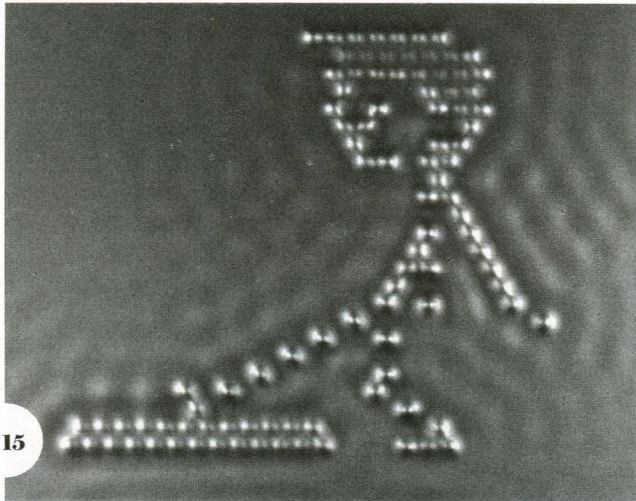
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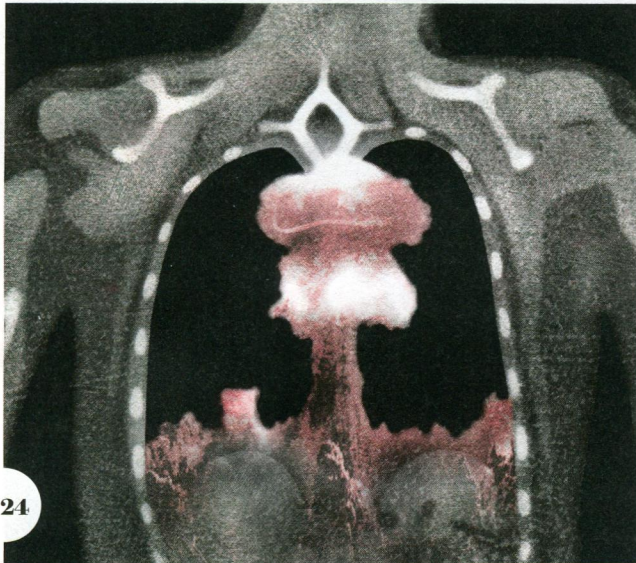
## ON THE WEB

### Tracking the Cicada Cycle

In 2013 the cicadas of "brood II" emerged from the ground across the eastern U.S. to complete their 17-year life cycle. Find out where cicadas will appear in 2014 and whether a brood inhabits your region. Go to [www.ScientificAmerican.com/jul2013/cicada](http://www.ScientificAmerican.com/jul2013/cicada)



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