



A-level Biology: Things to Watch/ Listen To

Growing New Organs

Watch at: https://www.ted.com/talks/anthony_atala_growing_new_organs?language=en

Anthony Atala's state-of-the-art lab grows human organs -- from muscles to blood vessels to bladders, and more. He shows footage of his bio-engineers working with some of its sci-fi gizmos, including an oven-like bioreactor and a machine that "prints" human tissue.

A New Superweapon in the Fight Against Cancer

Watch at: https://www.ted.com/talks/paula_hammond_a_new_superweapon_in_the_fight_against_cancer?language=en

Cancer is a very clever, adaptable disease. To defeat it we need a new and powerful mode of attack. With her colleagues at MIT, Hammond engineered a nanoparticle one-hundredth the size of a human hair that can treat the most aggressive, drug-resistant cancers.

Humble Plants That Hide Surprising Secrets

Watch at: https://www.ted.com/talks/ameenah_qurib_fakim_humble_plants_that_hide_surprising_secrets?referrer=playlist-the_secret_lives_of_plants&language=en#t-173878

In this intriguing talk, biologist Ameenah Gurib-Fakim introduces us to rare plant species from isolated islands and regions of Africa. Meet the shape-shifting benjoin; the baume de l'ile plate, which might offer a new treatment for asthma; and the iconic baobab tree, which could hold the key to the future of food.

Virunga (2014)

The documentary tells the story of four characters fighting to protect Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo, home to the world's last mountain gorillas, from war, poaching, and the threat of oil exploration. The film focuses on the natural beauty and biodiversity of Virunga, as well as the complex political and economic issues surrounding oil exploration and armed conflict in the region.



The Andromeda Strain (1971)

Science fiction by the great thriller writer Michael Crichton (of Jurassic Park fame). Humans begin dying when an alien microbe arrives on Earth.

