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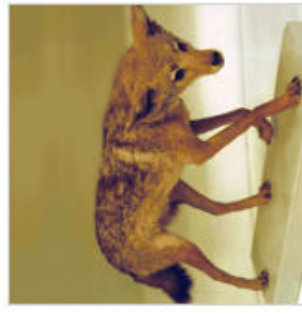
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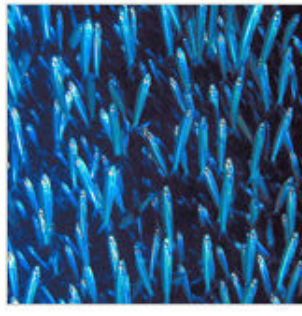
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Walking the dog. If life imitates art, then some of our four-legged friends are in danger of tipping over. An analysis of over 300 images of dogs, horses, and antelopes from natural history museums and anatomy text books, as well as toy animal poses, finds that artists depicted the quadrupeds with unstable gaits nearly 50% of the time. The animals violate the standard "foot fall formula" of the left hind leg hitting the ground first, followed by the left fore leg, the right hind leg, and the right fore leg. Were the animals real, this gait would throw off their center of mass, causing them to tip over, researchers report in the 27 January issue of *Current Biology*. (Photo: Gabor Horvath and Adelinda Csapo)



Big catch. Ever wondered exactly how many fish are in the sea? Between 0.8 and 2 billion metric tons, according to two independent models published 16 January in *Science*. That's the weight equivalent of 4,000 to 10,000 Sears Towers. The first model looked at how much energy is produced by plants in the ocean, and then how that energy moves through the food chain; the second compiled fisheries data starting from 1950 and determined the amount of fish that had to be in the ocean to sustain those catches. Because fish make calcium carbonate, which dissolves easily and raises the pH of the ocean, scientists can use these estimates to better understand how fish impact entire marine ecosystems. (Photo: Jupiter Images)



Gali-who? Telescopic astronomy began 400 years ago—but in England, not Italy, or so claims an English historian. In February's *Astronomy and Geophysics*, Allan Chapman reports that mathematician Thomas Harriot first used a telescope to study and draw a map of the moon on 26 July 1609.

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