

# Satellites

## Purpose

The purpose of these activities is to learn more about manmade satellites.

Students will be able to

1. Define satellite, and related terms.
2. Note the main, basic parts of a satellite.
3. Identify some major uses of satellites.
4. Conduct research on the types of satellites, using various resources; and write a report using the findings.

## Important Vocabulary

satellite	orbit	revolve	payload
bus	low earth orbit	polar	geosynchronous equatorial orbit
elliptical orbit			

## What is a Satellite, Anyway?

Students briefly discuss what they know about satellites. Then, they use the internet and/or space science texts to define what satellites are. Next, students read about and label the parts of a satellite (on a handout—see below for some resources from which a drawing/other image might be taken).

## Satellite Family Members

Students conduct research on types of satellites, using the internet, textbooks, and other sources. Then, students use their findings to write a report on at least one type.

## Helpful Resources

The following resources might be helpful to use in conjunction with this lesson.

1. <http://spacelink.nasa.gov/Instructional.Materials/Curriculum.Support/Technology/Models/.index.html> (This site has links to satellite models to make.)
2. <http://cse.ssl.berkeley.edu/SEGwayed/abthowsee.html> (This site includes a project comparing three NASA satellites.)
3. <http://www.thetech.org/exhibits/online/satellite/home.html> (This is an “All About Satellites” site, providing a good basic overview.)
4. <http://collections.ic.gc.ca/satellites/english/main.html> (This is another “All About Satellites” site from Canada.)
5. <http://octopus.gma.org/surfing/satellites/> (This site gives some explanation of “How Satellites Work.”)