Satellites

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Vocabulary

Attitude - the orientation of an aircraft or spacecraft, relative to the direction of travel.

To relay - to receive and pass on (information or a message).

Distress signal - a signal from a ship or aircraft that is in danger.

Fraction - a small or tiny part, amount, or proportion of something.

Projectile - an object propelled through the air, especially one thrown as a weapon.

Perpetually - in a way that never ends or changes; constantly.

Curvature - the fact of being curved or the degree to which something is curved.

Drag - the longitudinal retarding force exerted by air or other fluid surrounding a moving object.

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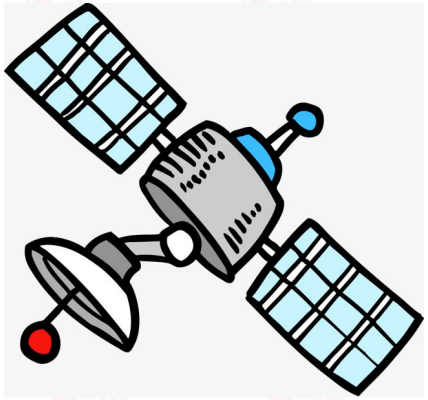
Introduction

"Man must rise above the Earth — to the top of the atmosphere and beyond — for only thus will he fully understand the world in which he lives."

Socrates made this observation centuries before humans successfully placed an object in Earth's orbit. And yet the Greek philosopher seemed to grasp how valuable a view from space might be, even if he didn't know how to achieve it.



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