

The GPS

WORD LIST

pin • point

mil • i • tar • y

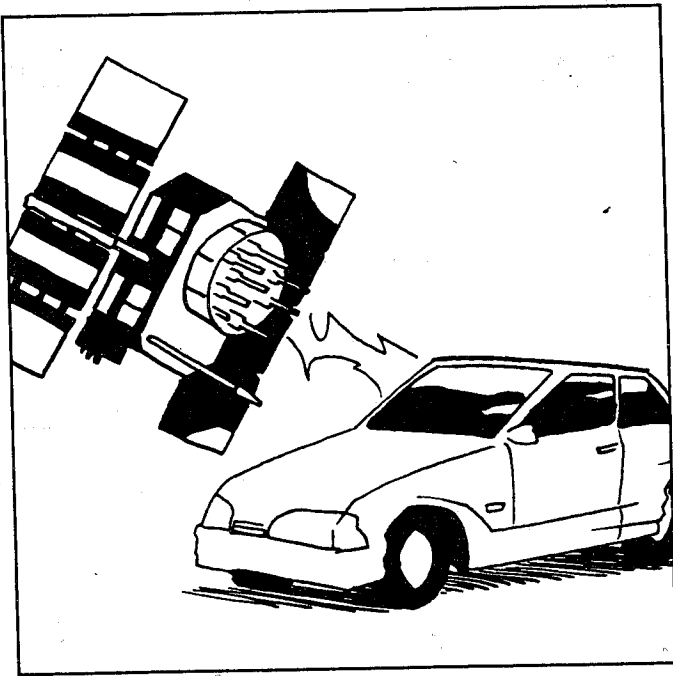
sat • el • lites

ci • vil • ians

se • cu • ri • ty

pri • va • cy

The GPS (Global Positioning System) can closely pinpoint where a person or object is located. It does this by using GPS receivers and satellites. A ground receiver uses the signal from a satellite in space to tell where something is on Earth.



The Defense Department created the system for the armed forces. They first used it in the 1991 Gulf War. The GPS was a great success. It guided bombs and missiles. It helped U.S. troops find their way in the Arabian Desert.

At first, the military did not want others to use the GPS. But, in time, they gave in to pressure from the makers of the system.

These companies wanted to sell it to more people.

The military did finally let others use the system. But they still kept the best signal for themselves. Their signal is accurate within 60 feet. The signal for civilians has been accurate only within 100 feet. But it is improving.

The GPS is used in many ways. Fire trucks and ambulances use it to help them get to people in trouble. Boaters and pilots can stay on course with it. Many cars have the system as well. Drivers can find out where they are if they are lost. They can also get directions to where they are going. The GPS has many other possible uses. Sales may grow to over \$30 billion in the coming years.

The GPS has been very helpful. But it also worries people. They are concerned about privacy. What if someone does not want to be found by satellite? What if a law is passed that says everyone must wear a receiver so they can be found easily? Some are also concerned about security. How can we keep the wrong people from using it? These are some of the problems that must be solved to make the best use of this amazing system.

Name _____

The GPS

GETTING THE FACTS

1. What does the Global Positioning System (GPS) do? _____

2. The GPS was first developed for whom? _____
3. When was it first used? _____

4. Write two other uses of the GPS today. _____

DICTIONARY SKILLS/VOCABULARY

5. Look up *pressure* in the dictionary. Write its correct meaning (the one that fits the way it is used in the story). _____

WORD ANALYSIS

6. Write the noun forms of these words. The first one is done for you. (You may use a dictionary to help you.)

private: privacy

locate: _____

succeed: _____

MAKING INFERENCES

7. Why do you think the makers of the GPS wanted to sell it to more people?

Name _____

The GPS

COMPARISON/CONTRAST

8. In the past, how has the military signal been different than the civilian signal? _____

CLASSIFYING INFORMATION

9. Are the people in these groups military or civilian?

the President, senators, postal workers: _____

Army, Navy, Air Force: _____

EVALUATING INFORMATION

10. What do you think should be done to protect people's privacy? _____

11. What type of person would you not want to use the GPS? _____

PREDICTING OUTCOMES

12. What are some other uses the GPS might have in the future? _____

For Further Study/Writing Practice:

Read more about the *Global Positioning System* in an encyclopedia or other source. Write a paragraph about something new that you learn.