



# Introduction to GPS



TOPIC	INFORMATION
Overview	GPS devices are used to collect important location data. Now that the size of the required circuitry has shrunk, handheld GPS devices are becoming more popular and easy to use – even your phone has one!
Background information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Positioning System (“GPS”) is a constellation of orbiting satellites that provides navigation data</li> <li>• Satellites orbit the earth every 12 hours emitting continuous navigation signals</li> <li>• GPS is used by military and civilians</li> <li>• GPS receivers have been developed for aircraft, ships, land vehicles and hand-held devices</li> </ul>
Activity Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students use GPS receivers to mark hiding spots for "treasures" and challenge other teams to find them.</li> <li>• Students use GPS receivers to mark an observation spot at a local wildlife refuge and record data and observations</li> </ul>
Inquiry Inspirations	<p>In what ways has GPS benefitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping?</li> <li>• Search and rescue?</li> <li>• Aerial refueling?</li> <li>• Geodetic surveys?</li> <li>• Travel?</li> <li>• Child safety?</li> <li>• Recreation and gaming?</li> </ul>