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Activities

How GPS Works

Name: _____ Date: _____

How does Global Positioning System (GPS) know where you are and guide to where you're going? You'll find out in this Planet Diary activity.

Directions

- Start at Why GPS? Click *View the animation*. Answer Workspace question 1.
- Continue to What Is GPS? Read the description and watch the animation. Then answer question 2.
- Find out How GPS Works. Read the summary and view the animation. Answer question 3.
- Take a closer look at Triangulating. Watch the animations illustrating the steps in triangulation. Answer questions 4 and 5.
- Find out about Measuring Distance From a Satellite. Watch the animations, then read *In Review*. Answer the last question.

Workspace

1. Why was the Global Positioning System (GPS) built?

2. List some ways GPS is used in everyday life.

3. What is the "basis" of GPS?

4. How does triangulation work?

5. Explain how GPS "knows" which of the possible location points is correct.

6. How is the distance to a satellite determined?

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