

Satellite Technology (DVD) Teacher Notes

This is a nice DVD that introduces the students to satellites. To maximize attention distribute worksheet prior to viewing and say something to the effect that they will be tested on the material. The material is slightly outdated so in the answers in the teachers notes there is updated information from the NASA website to explain a little more about the status of each of these missions.

Answers to the questions:

- 1) **What is a satellite?** Anything that orbits the Earth, natural or artificial.
- 2) **Name the first natural satellite of Earth?** The Moon
- 3) **Name the first artificial satellite of Earth?** Sputnik
- 4) **How many artificial satellites now orbit Earth?** About 8,000
- 5) **What percent of the artificial satellites orbiting Earth are used or functioning?** 13%
- 6) **Name 4 things that satellites are used for?**
 1. Cell Phones
 2. Television
 3. Pagers
 4. Weather forecasting
- 7) **How much does it usually take to make one satellite in dollars, years and people?**

\$500 million, 3 years, 100 people
- 8) **What does the acronym KISS stand for?** Keep It Simple Stupid
- 9) **How long does it take the International Space Station to travel from Dallas to Paris?** 17 min.
- 10) **What is orbital debris?** Space Junk, Trash left from old satellites, astronauts, etc.
- 11) **What are the dangers of satellites?** Hitting each other, hitting earth, hitting astronauts, and contaminating space.