

FUN FACTS ABOUT GPS...



1. **GPS** = **G**lobal **P**ositioning **S**ystem which tells you where you are at on Earth. The U.S. Department of Defense is responsible for maintaining the system of GPS satellites.
2. **GPS** was originally developed for military use in 1978 and an executive decree in the 1980s made it available to the general population. The development of small, cheap microprocessors in the 1990s led to the small and cheap GPS units you can buy today. The GPS design was loosely based on LORAN and the Decca Navigator system, both of which were developed during World War II for allied forces to navigate ships and aircraft at long range.
3. **GPS** answers 5 questions simultaneously:
 - a. "Where am I?"
 - b. "Where am I going?"
 - c. "Where are you?"
 - d. "What's the best way to get there?"
 - e. "When will I get there?"
4. **GPS** is one of the hottest technologies around, and no wonder, consider these diverse uses:
 - a. Minnesota scientists use **GPS** to study movements and feeding habits of deer.
 - b. Surveyors used **GPS** to measure how the buildings shifted after the bombing in Oklahoma City.
 - c. **GPS** helps settle property disputes between land owners.
 - d. Marine archaeologists use **GPS** to guide research vessels hunting for shipwrecks.
 - e. **GPS** data has revealed that Mt. Everest is getting taller!
5. Each of the satellites in the **GPS System** orbits the planet at 12,500 miles. A GPS satellite is built to last for 10 years and is 17 feet across when the solar panels are extended and weighs around 2,000 pounds.
6. Another use for the **GPS technology** is to track ships at sea. This can come in handy if fishing boats get lost in a storm or if a cargo vessel gets blown off course and runs out of fuel.
7. The **GPS system** can be used to find out the exact time, down to the fraction of a second. This can be useful if you need to be somewhere at a certain time and you have no idea what time it is.
8. **GPS technology** is being used as a safety tool in tracking not only children and animals, but with assisting caregivers in caring for their patients with all forms of dementia.

MORE FUN FACTS ABOUT GPS... →

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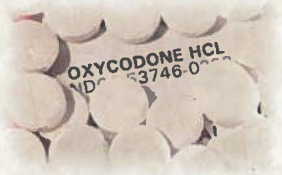
GPS is used to investigate the secret lives of outdoor cats. With GPS, Scientists will be allowed to track the movements. The research may clarify the extent to which cats pose a threat to birds. When a British TV program tagged cats with GPS, it discovered that they spent much of their time at other cat owner's houses trying to steal cat food.



GPS is used for art. Artist, Michael Wallace, has come up with a way to turn his city of Baltimore into a sort of giant Etch-a-Sketch for his electronic drawings. He rides around on a bike equipped with a GPS tracker and mapping software, drawing on the computerized map with his movements. He uses the grid structure of city streets in southeast Baltimore and rides through a large local park to create curved lines. His work varies from an intricate picture of the Titanic to much simpler pictures.



GPS is used to prevent shark attacks and nearly 50 big sharks have been tagged with GPS devices so that scientists can pinpoint each of their locations at any given moment. When the sharks get too close to shore, an alarm is sent to lifeguards who then tell people to get out of the water. The tagging is also yielding new information about the mysterious species' movements and behavior. Researchers have learned that sharks don't only stay in cold water as expected. You can go to the OCEARCH website to track movements of the tagged sharks.



GPS is used for tracking stolen prescription drugs. Robbers and burglars have been targeting drugstores in an effort to obtain oxycodone, a powerful and addictive painkiller popular on the black market for sale. In an effort to thwart drug thieves, the NYC police came up with a technologically advanced variation of exploding dye packs. They stocked pharmacies with decoy oxycodone bottles concealing GPS tracking devices which detectives use to track criminals.



GPS is used for staging a Treasure Hunt – Geocaching. Since the early 2000s, GPS enthusiasts have used devices to set up high-tech treasure hunts. Geocaching hobbyists hide caches of trinkets such as souvenir coins or toy plastic animals in various locations that they've plotted on treasurer maps and then post the maps online on sites such as Geocaching.com so that others can search for the prize.



GPS is used for mapping a person's daily run and movements on a cruise ship. A triathlete while on his honeymoon cruise because curious about how his daily runs on the ship's circular 10-laps-to-a-mile running track would look on a GPS map since the ship also would be moving. He found that he could see a peculiar wavy pattern almost as if he was running in one direction but veering from side to side instead of a circle.



GPS is used to safeguard Nativity Scene Figures. Brickhouse Security in NYC has been providing churches and other religious organizations tracking services free of charge since 2005. If the Jesus figure is stolen from the manger, the device will send a text message or email to the figurine's owner as well as give off a signal so that the police can track down the thieves.



GPS keeps watch on people with Alzheimer's and other forms of Dementia. GPS SmartSoles, shoes developed by footwear company Aetrex and technology firm GTX, allows caregivers to call any time and get a wearer's location or even to set up "geo fences" that will send an alarm if the wearer leaves a designated area. The GPS tracking device is concealed in the inserts of patient's shoes.