

Last Astronomy Assignment!

Instead of flipping through another PowerPoint and filling out a follow along worksheet I decided to have you look up Starlink Satellites and write 5 facts about them. If you don't have internet access here is an attached article that you can use. If you get a chance to gaze at the stars this summer sometime around 10:00 you might see a string of lights that looks like line of airplanes moving in a straight line, but its really Starlink Satellites, and their impact on us could change the internet world.

Interesting Facts

1. _____

 2. _____

 3. _____

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<https://wgntv.com/chicago-news/see-a-string-of-lights-in-the-sky-it-was-probably-spacexs-starlink-satellites/>

See a string of lights in the sky? It was probably SpaceX's 'Starlink' satellites

by: [Mike Janssen, CNN Wire](#)

Posted: Apr 26, 2020 / 09:51 PM CDT / Updated: Apr 27, 2020 / 07:38 AM CDT

We're getting many calls and emails from WGN viewers who say they spotted a strange string of lights crossing the night sky on Sunday.

No, it's not planes flying in formation or a meteor shower. It's actually a satellite string that's part of SpaceX's "Starlink" project. You can read more about it below.



A WGN viewer shared this photo of the Starlink satellites on Sunday evening
SpaceX moves ahead with Starlink satellite launch amid pandemic
While much of the world economy stands still, SpaceX is running full speed ahead.

Elon Musk's space venture launched another batch of its Internet-beaming satellites into Earth's orbit Wednesday, continuing the company's push to create a multibillion-dollar telecom business.

The 60 Starlink broadband satellites rode atop one of SpaceX's Falcon 9 rockets, taking off from Florida's Kennedy Space Center at 3:30 pm ET. The devices are now coasting through orbit, where they will soon begin climbing to about 340 miles above ground, their operational altitude. This launch brings the total number of Starlink satellites in orbit to more than 400.

SpaceX has said the satellites will allow it to beam Internet directly to terminals that consumers will set up at their homes or offices. Service is expected to roll out in the United States and Canada this year, CEO Elon Musk has [said](#). The company plans to eventually grow its constellation to more than 40,000 satellites, blanketing the entire planet in cheap, high-speed Internet connectivity.

If Starlink is successful, it could bring in billions of dollars of new revenue for SpaceX, Musk has [predicted](#). But there's still a lot to prove: rolling out a reliable service and offering it at price points that make sense for consumers is something tech firms have tried and failed to do in decades past.

Last month, one of SpaceX's well-funded competitors, Softbank-backed OneWeb, filed for [bankruptcy](#). The company lagged far behind SpaceX in deploying its constellation of internet satellites, and it had been struggling financially even before the COVID-19 pandemic dashed its efforts to secure new financing.

SpaceX and the broader US space industry have been designated "critical infrastructure" by the federal government, allowing much of their business operations to continue amid the global health crisis, even as stay-at-home orders have shuttered other industries.

SpaceX did not respond to requests for comment about its work during the pandemic.

The company has launched three Starlink missions so far in 2020. SpaceX also is preparing for its first-ever crewed mission next month. Two NASA astronauts will fly aboard a SpaceX rocket and capsule on a historic mission to the International Space Station on May 27, the space agency [announced](#) last week.

SpaceX was forced to delay the launch of a satellite for Argentina's space agency last month due to travel restrictions related to the pandemic. The company was also scheduled to launch next-generation GPS satellites for the US military this month, but the US Space and Missile Systems Center determined that launch [could wait](#), citing COVID-19 concerns.

The 45th Space Wing, an arm of the US military that oversees missions from the Florida space hub, says it is determined to get as many rockets off the ground as possible to ensure the space industry doesn't collect a long backlog of launches.

Brigadier General Doug Schiess, the 45th Space Wing's commander, said it is still evaluating launches on a case-by-case basis to ensure the safety of government workers required to be on site to provide weather monitoring and other services during launches.

About 200 government workers were needed to support the Starlink mission, Schiess said — about 100 fewer than required for other types of missions.

Awesome Astronomy Assignment

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That's largely because SpaceX's Falcon 9 is equipped with an abort system that automatically destroys the rocket if it goes off course in order to prevent damage to infrastructure, Schiess said. That eliminates the need for some government staff that would otherwise have to monitor the mission.

The 45th Space Wing will also help oversee SpaceX's [crewed mission](#). That historic mission will mark the first time NASA astronauts have launched into space from US soil since the space shuttle program was retired in 2011.