diagram might be the best representation of the information. Since graphs, charts, and diagrams can serve different purposes, geographers use their best judgment in determining which format to use.

## Aerial Photographs and Satellite Images

When it is important to have very current or accurate information, photographs taken from a bird's eye or aerial view might be just what a geographer needs. If a shopping center is planned to be built near a wetland area, it would be helpful to see the extent of the wetlands through an aerial photo. A satellite image is simply a picture taken by one of the thousands of satellites that are circling Earth. These satellite images can provide very valuable information that would be difficult to get any other way. For



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global\_Positio ning\_System

instance, during Hurricane Sandy, meteorologists used satellite imagery to track the storm in order to accurately predict the storm's intensity and where and when it would reach land. This way, thousands of people were able to prepare for the storm.

## **Global Positioning System**

Commonly referred to as GPS, global positioning systems use a network of satellites that continually orbit Earth to collect information about the location of a receiver, like your cell phone. The satellites send the receiver's exact position



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File: NDrive\_GPS.jpg (latitude, longitude, elevation, and time) to Earth. This information is displayed on the receiver. Many cars and cell phones today have GPS systems. Imagine you are an archeologist trekking through a remote area. You are in search of a site that was previously spotted in a satellite image. GPS equipment would be very helpful for you to find the exact place you are looking to begin your exploration!