Satellites launched to provide worldwide Internet

4th March, 2019

A satellite start-up company has successfully launched its first satellites in a project aimed at delivering "affordable" Internet access to every corner of the globe. The London-based company is called OneWeb. Its first six satellites were put into orbit on Wednesday in a launch from French Guiana. A Russian Soyuz rocket transported the pioneering spacecraft. OneWeb said it eventually wants to have around 900 spacecraft in an extensive network in space. Only 648 satellites are needed to provide global Internet coverage. OneWeb will start sending more Internet satellites into space towards the end of this year. The company intends to launch several rockets every month, each carrying 39 satellites.

OneWeb CEO Adrian Steckel was ecstatic about the launch of the multi-billion-dollar project. He said it would greatly transform the lives of millions of people. He told reporters: "We're going to connect lots of people who are not currently connected. We're going to start by focusing on connecting schools, connecting boats, connecting planes, and connecting huge swathes of the planet." Not everyone is happy at the prospect of a global Internet network. Reports are that China is testing jammers to block the network. North Korea might also fear the network could damage its national security. Russia has voiced concerns that OneWeb's network could be used to gather intelligence.

Sources: bbc.com / dw.com / onewebsatellites.com

Writing

No country should be able to block Internet access. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

satellite / start-up / Internet access / orbit / network / space / spacecraft / rockets / project / millions / connected / planes / testing / jammers / security / intelligence

True / False

a) The Internet service the satellites will provide will be expensive. T / F

b) The company launching the satellites is based in Florida, USA. T / F

c) Around 900 satellites are required to provide global Internet coverage. T / F

d) The company will launch several satellites a month later this year. T / F

e) The CEO said the satellites would transform the lives of billions. T / F

f) The company will start by focusing on connecting governments. T / F

g) Not all countries are happy about this new satellite network. T / F

h) Russia is worried the network could be used to gather intelligence. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

1.	**launched**	a.	large-scale
2.	**delivering**	b.	groundbreaking
3.	**pioneering**	c.	expressed
4.	**extensive**	d.	change
5.	**several**	e.	presently
6.	**ecstatic**	f.	sent into orbit
7.	**transform**	g.	likelihood
8.	**currently**	h.	a number of
9.	**prospect**	i.	providing
10.	**voiced**	j.	overjoyed

Discussion – Student A

a) What do you think of the cost of the Internet?

b) How would the world change if the Internet was everywhere?

c) How important is the Internet?

d) How does the Internet help you?

e) Should there be so many satellites in space?

f) How can we make the Internet better?

g) What would life be like without the Internet?

h) In what ways is the Internet dangerous?

Phrase Match

1. successfully launched
2. aimed at delivering "affordable"
3. its first six satellites were put
4. provide global Internet
5. launch several
6. start by focusing
7. connecting huge swathes
8. testing jammers to
9. Russia has voiced
10. used to gather

a. coverage
b. block the network
c. rockets every month
d. concerns
e. into orbit
f. intelligence
g. on connecting schools
h. its first satellites
i. of the planet
j. Internet access

Discussion – Student B

a) What do you think about what you read?
b) When was the last time you were ecstatic?
c) How might the OneWeb network transform lives?
d) Are you happy with your Internet coverage?
e) Why might China not like the OneWeb network?
f) How might worldwide Internet change North Korea?
g) What will the Internet be like in 50 years?
h) What questions would you like to ask the boss of OneWeb?

Spelling

1. delivering dablffaore Internet access
2. put into boitr on Wednesday
3. the pgronniiee spacecraft
4. in an netixvsee network
5. provide global Internet gevcareo
6. launch leesrva rockets
7. tccetais about the launch
8. not relunrtcy connected
9. huge hteawss of the planet
10. the rpoctesp of a global Internet network
11. damage its national rtsceuyi
12. Russia has vedoic concerns

Role Play

Role A – Studying English
You think the best use of the Internet is for studying English. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): social media, getting news or shopping.

Role B – Social Media
You think the best use of the Internet is for social media. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): studying English, getting news or shopping.

Role C – News
You think the best use of the Internet is for getting news. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): social media, studying English or shopping.

Role D – Shopping
You think the best use of the Internet is for shopping. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): social media, getting news or studying English.

Speaking – The Internet

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things about the Internet at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- news
- hobbies
- shopping
- banking

- studying English
- online business
- weather forecasts
- social media

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. b	4. a	5. h
6. j	7. d	8. e	9. g	10. c

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	T

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.