



HISTORY BITES

LITTLE NIBBLES OF HISTORY

SPACE TELEVISION?

April 1, 1960:

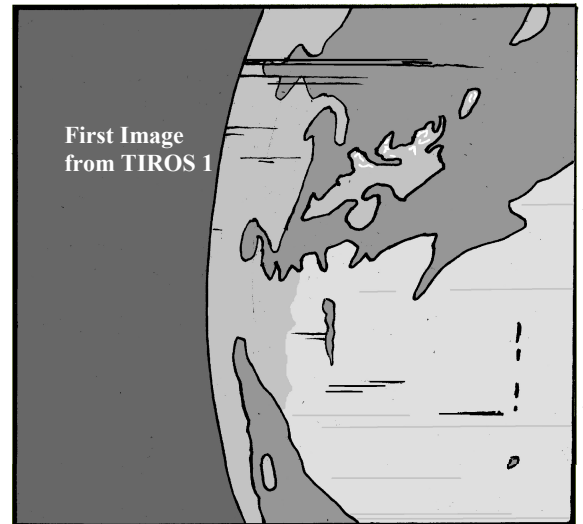
First Weather Satellite Launched

...And it was no April fool!

It was just over 60 years ago, when something that we take for granted today first happened.

On that day, the first ever grainy, black and white television picture, the one illustrated, was sent from space to Earth.

It started a revolution in television and television journalism.



A revolution that three years later allowed me to watch an historic event on November 25th, 1963. That was the day we sat in front of our television and watched President John F. Kennedy's funeral live in our home.

I was an 18-year-old, who felt he was watching history.

It didn't take long for it to become natural, and by 1968 my friends and I were coming back from the pub to watch football matches from the Mexico World Cup, 'live'. It had become so natural!

TIROS-1

This was the name of that first satellite, TIROS, which was actually short for *Television Infrared Observation Satellite*.

It sent the first pictures from space, showing the New England coast and Canada's Maritime Provinces, north to the St. Lawrence River.

It was launched by NASA as the first ever weather satellite from Cape Canaveral in Florida, which is now called Cape Kennedy, it then sent its pictures back to a ground station at Fort Monmouth in New Jersey.

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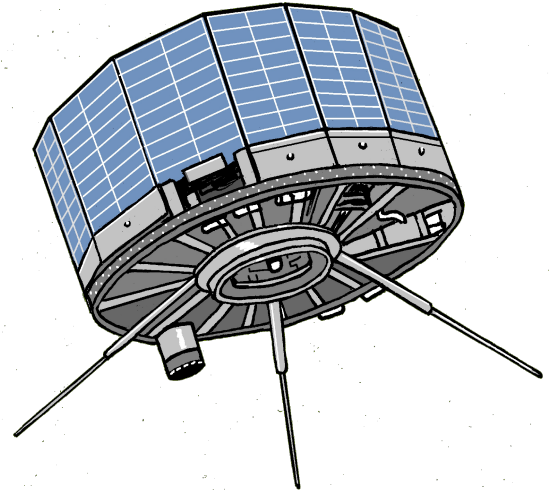
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TIROS 1 was simply an aluminum and stainless-steel drum that was only 42 inches wide, 19 inches high and weighed 270 pounds. The clever bit was that it was covered with 9,200 solar cells, whose job was to power its two TV cameras: one high-res, one low-res. It then had five antenna, one to receive control signals from ground stations, and four to transmit TV images back to Earth.



There were also on board two video recorders to store the pictures it took, while on the other side of the earth.

In those days satellites were not always pointed towards the earth and could only operate in daylight, with the result that coverage was not continuous.

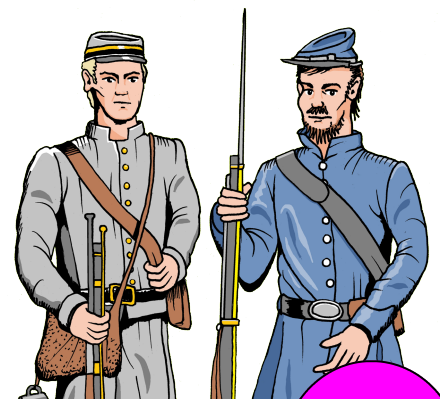
TIROS-1 only worked for 78 days, but in that time, it sent many pictures that showed clouds and how they were moving across the world.

TIRO-1's launch also gave us the ability to watch worldwide events while also allowing us to understand our weather in much greater detail, helping us to be warned of impending natural disasters.

HISTORY.PORTAL have a range of musical shows.

GETTYSBURG

Is an amazing musical for children, all about the American Civil War. It has 12 catchy songs and tells the story of a war that ripped apart families and forged the incredible United States of America.



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1 lesson.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

BUILDING TIROS 1

Building the simple satellite **TIROS 1** is easy. Simply follow these simple instructions.

1. Find a cylindrical object that's easy to use. A cardboard container would be best.
2. Find some card that you can peel the paper off to create Corrugated cardboard.
3. Roll up masking tape to create double sided tape and cut the corrugated cardboard into small rectangles that fit your container



4. Attach your corrugated card Solar Panels.
5. Use cocktail sticks or small dowels, pushed through the base or lid of your container for aerials
6. Paint grey or silver.
7. To create a generic Satellite you can add extra Solar panels and aerials as you prefer.

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