

The Sputnik 1 was the first artificial satellite to orbit the earth. *"Although it was only a simple 58-cm (23-in) aluminum sphere containing a pair of radio transmitters, Sputnik's successful orbits around Earth marked a huge step in technology and ushered in the space age."* After 57 days in space, the satellite re-entered earth's atmosphere and was destroyed by aerodynamic frictional heat.