



MESSAGE FROM ORBIT

--x.x...x...x.-x--.x.xx...-x.-.x---x---xx---x.-.x-...x..x-x
5 4 4 7 4 7 4 6 5 8 8 4 1 8 1 8 5 6 5 3 5 6 1 8 2 7 4 8 6

x---^^^This encodes the title "Message from Orbit" into Morse, with an "x" separating each Morse letter, and "xx" separating each word. Each of the 9 2-symbol combinations of dot, dash and x is represented by a digit from 1 to 9. 9 is determined by process of elimination (the only remaining pattern is X-)

From Wikipedia: "Sputnik 1 was the first artificial Earth satellite. The Soviet Union launched it into an elliptical low Earth orbit on 4 October 1957. It was a 58 cm (23 in) diameter polished metal sphere, with four external radio antennae to broadcast radio pulses. It was visible all around the Earth and its radio pulses were detectable. This surprise success... triggered the Space Race... The launch ushered in new political, military, technological, and scientific developments."

1 = . -

4 = X.

7 = ..

2 = -.

5 = --

8 = .X

3 = XX

6 = -X

9 = X-

The following message has been received from orbit. American scientists are dashing to figure out the method of encoding. They need to know by 7:00 PM on the dot. Can you help them decipher it?

2 5 9 5 4 1 4 2 3 1 9 8 7 8 1 6 8
-. -- x- -- x. .- x. -. xx .- x- .x .. .x .- -x .x
Y O U R A N S W E
1 8 4 8 7 8 9 7 8 8 8 1 2 4 8 2 9 2
.- .x x. .x .. .xx- .. .x .x .x .- -. x. .x -. x- -.
R I S B E E P I N G

B E E P I N G