

A Wonderful World of Knowledge...Know More About It

Episode #6: Mobile Outages

Tonight in "A Wonderful World...Know More About It", the question is, "Why are the Internet and mobile phone calls interrupted during an equinox?"

Global communications depend upon satellites that orbit the Earth, stationed above a particular spot along the equator.

Each March and September, the Sun passes directly above the equator....a period called an equinox.

For a few days around that time, communications satellites pass between the Sun and the Earth for a few minutes.

During that brief period, the Sun's radio waves, microwaves and waves of other frequencies block the satellite from its receiving stations on Earth.

It's a bit like a bird being hidden by the Sun's light as the bird flies between you and the Sun.

And, in case you were wondering equinox is a word taken from the Latin for "equal night" as during an equinox, daylight and night each last 12 hours.

