

## Mystery drones in USA causing alarm

19th December 2024



There have been hundreds of sightings of mystery drones across the USA. People first started telling the police about the drones last month. Since then, more and more people have reported seeing them. Most of the sightings have been in the state of New Jersey. Residents there are concerned because the drones have been flying above military bases. One drone was spotted near Donald Trump's golf course in New Jersey. Stewart Airfield in New York state shut down for an hour last week because of "suspicious" drone activity. US authorities said they are unsure where the drones are from. A spokesperson said the unidentified flying objects (UFOs) were not a danger to the public.

Many conspiracy theories have started online because of the drone sightings. Some people on social media are saying Russia and China are using the objects to spy on the USA. A New Jersey Republican representative said the drones were coming from an "Iranian mothership" in the Atlantic Ocean. The US Homeland Security Secretary told ABC News that he knew of "no foreign involvement with respect to the sightings". He added: "If we identify any foreign involvement or criminal activity, we will communicate with the American public." FBI investigators said most of the drone sightings were cases of "mistaken identity" and that people were "over-reacting" unnecessarily to news reports.

Sources: [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com) / [cnn.com](https://www.cnn.com) / [foxnews.com](https://www.foxnews.com)

### Writing

Drones are an amazing invention that will change the world. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

sightings / mystery / drones / police / concerned / military bases / suspicious / danger / conspiracy theory / social media / spy / criminal activity / mistaken identity / news

### True / False

- 1) There have been thousands of mysterious drone sightings in the USA. T / F
- 2) People started telling the police about the drones last week. T / F
- 3) The drones have been flying over military bases. T / F
- 4) Authorities in the USA told people they are not in danger. T / F
- 5) One conspiracy theory says the drones are from Canada. T / F
- 6) The USA said the drones are being used for spying purposes. T / F
- 7) The USA said there is no sign of criminal activity regarding the drones. T / F
- 8) The FBI said news reports are making people over-react. T / F

### Synonym Match

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

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. <b>mystery</b>      | a. unknown             |
| 2. <b>residents</b>    | b. camps               |
| 3. <b>bases</b>        | c. participation       |
| 4. <b>spotted</b>      | d. locals              |
| 5. <b>unidentified</b> | e. illegal             |
| 6. <b>spy</b>          | f. people              |
| 7. <b>involvement</b>  | g. puzzling            |
| 8. <b>criminal</b>     | h. wrong               |
| 9. <b>public</b>       | i. gather intelligence |
| 10. <b>mistaken</b>    | j. sighted             |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think of conspiracy theories?
- c) Why do people believe conspiracy theories?
- d) What should the USA do if the drones are Russian, Chinese or Iranian?
- e) How might criminals use drones?
- f) Have you ever mistaken someone's identity?
- g) Are you looking forward to food delivery by drones?
- h) What questions would you like to ask a drone expert?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. There have been hundreds of sightings | a. on the USA                |
| 2. more and more people                  | b. military bases            |
| 3. drones have been flying above         | c. unnecessarily             |
| 4. they are unsure where the             | d. to the public             |
| 5. UFOs were not a danger                | e. involvement               |
| 6. conspiracy                            | f. have reported seeing them |
| 7. using the objects to spy              | g. of mistaken identity      |
| 8. he knew of no foreign                 | h. of mystery drones         |
| 9. the drone sightings were cases        | i. theories                  |
| 10. people were "over-reacting"          | j. drones are from           |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of drones?
- Have you ever seen something mysterious in the sky?
- How useful are drones?
- In what ways could drones be dangerous?
- Would you worry if a drone was above your house?
- Should the police shoot the drones?
- Why might a drone be above Donald Trump's golf course?
- Do you think UFOs exist?

## Spelling

- hundreds of ignhgisst of mystery drones
- tsersnedi there are concerned
- above aiymtlir bases
- socisspiuu drone activity
- U.S. uiiettoashr said they are unsure
- inniudtdefie flying objects
- parnicscopy theories
- A New Jersey Republican peeeersivtrtan
- he knew of no gferion involvement
- nrmciai activity
- moeictcnmua with the American public
- mistaken tdyneiit

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Role Play

### Role A – Spying

You think spying is the best use of drones. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their uses. Also, tell the others which is the worst use of these (and why): food delivery, search and rescue or warfare.

### Role B – Food Delivery

You think food delivery is the best use of drones. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their uses. Also, tell the others which is the worst use of these (and why): spying, search and rescue or warfare.

### Role C – Search and Rescue

You think search and rescue is the best use of drones. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their uses. Also, tell the others which is the worst use of these (and why): food delivery, spying or warfare.

### Role D – Warfare

You think warfare is the best use of drones. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their uses. Also, tell the others which is the worst use of these (and why): food delivery, search and rescue or spying.

## Speaking – Drones

Rank these with your partner. Put the best uses of drones at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| • Spying        | • Aerial photos      |
| • Food delivery | • Search and rescue  |
| • Taxis         | • Emergency response |
| • Warfare       | • Traffic monitoring |

### Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	T	5	F	6	F	7	T	8	T
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.