



# NASAWAVELENGTH.org



A Full Spectrum of NASA Resources for  
Earth and Space Science Education

FOR EDUCATORS ■ K-12 • Higher Education • Informal Education



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# Let's get started!



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Audience

Topics

Quickly browse through our topics to find resources best for you.



Earth and Space Science

1,579



Earth, Moon & Sun

118



Physical Sciences

525



Astronomy

272



Solar System

571



The Nature of Science

413



Earth Processes

452



Engineering & Technology

509



The Nature of Technology

163



Earth Structure

633



Life Sciences

206



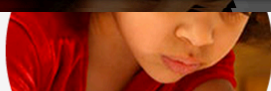
Earth History

23



Mathematics

472



Pre-kindergarten



Elementary School



Middle School



**Maven: Studying  
Mysteries of the Red  
Planet**  
by [NASA Wavelength](#)



**Multiverse Moon**  
by [Multiverse](#)

# Middle Section of Homepage



Discover Educator Resources for These Categories



Pre-kindergarten

880

Resources



Middle School



High School



Higher Education



Informal Education

Featured Lists



Science Storybooks  
and Activities for  
Elementary Children  
by [NASA Wavelength](#)

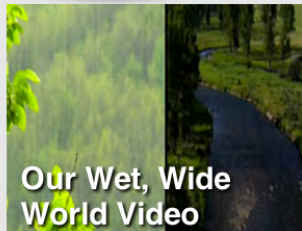


Maven: Studying  
Mysteries of the Red  
Planet  
by [NASA Wavelength](#)



Multiverse Moon  
by [Multiverse](#)

Featured Resources



**Our Wet, Wide World Video**

**NASA GSFC**  
This short video provides an overview of the Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM)...

# Bottom of the Homepage



## NASA Multimedia

### NASA Apps



▶ Get NASA Apps

### ScienceCasts



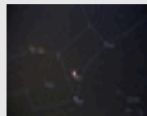
▶ View ScienceCasts

### NASA eClips



▶ View eClips

### Image of the Day



▶ View Image of the Day

## Recent Blog Posts



## Get Ready for Your Closeup: #GlobalSelfie

Students and teachers around the world are invited to participate in a celebration of Earth Day with NASA's

#GlobalSelfie event! On Earth Day (April 22), take a moment to go outside and capture a selfie of either yourself, your friends, or your entire class, and submit it using the hashtag #GlobalSelfie - these images will be used by NASA to create a mosaic image of Earth, starring you!

[Read More](#)

**Finding and Supporting the E in STEM**

**NASA @ NSTA!**

**Women's History Month, Part 2**

**Solar Week - Celebrate the Sun-Earth Connection!**

**Women's History Month, Part 1**

[See all blog entries](#)

## NASA Science News

- ▶ Construction to Begin on NASA Spacecraft Set to Visit Asteroid in 2018
- ▶ Appearance of Night-Shining Clouds Has Increased
- ▶ NASA Simulation Portrays Ozone Intrusions From Aloft



Feedback



Page Last Updated: April 11, 2014  
SMD Home NASA Home

### LINKS

- ▶ About
- ▶ News & Events
- ▶ Data & Images

- ▶ Contact
- ▶ Pressroom

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# Recent Blog Posts

Create new blog entry



## Get Ready for Your Closeup: #GlobalSelfie

Students and teachers around the world are invited to participate in a celebration of Earth Day with NASA's #GlobalSelfie event! On Earth Day (April 22), take a moment to go outside and capture a selfie of either yourself, your friends, or your entire class, and submit it using the hashtag #GlobalSelfie - these images will be used by NASA to create a mosaic image of Earth, starring you! [Read more](#)

Created 2014.04.09

0 comments

### Categories

- > [Heliophysics](#)
- > [Special Events](#)
- > [Girls in STEM](#)
- > [NGSS](#)

Search Blog



## Finding and Supporting the E in STEM

To accomplish NASA satellite mission objectives, scientists and engineers much find a synergy between their disciplines. With the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), educators need to do the same. NASA Wavelength can help you appreciate the distinction between the two, how they work together, and how they relate to NGSS. [Read more](#)

Created 2014.04.02

1 comment



## NASA @ NSTA!

Are you ready for a fun-filled week of science education at the 2014 NSTA National Conference in Boston? We are! From April 3-6, NASA will be at the conference, presenting sessions covering Earth and space science. A handy [Google calendar](#) shows all the NASA sessions and workshops, with times and locations. Sessions will include activities, lesson plans, and other educational resources and projects - most available online. Stop in to see what's available to liven up your science lessons! [Read more](#)

Created 2014.04.01

0 comments

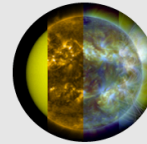


## Women's History Month, Part 2

We know from educational research that all students develop learning style preferences. [SciGirls](#) is a PBS show that features bright, curious middle school girls solving everyday problems using science and engineering. The producers have created a list of proven strategies for engaging girls in STEM called [The SciGirls Seven](#). NASA Wavelength's search capabilities enable you to select educational resources that employ instructional strategies demonstrated to motivate girls. Some of these instructional strategies include hands-on learning, cooperative learning, problem-based learning, and open inquiry. [Read more](#)

Created 2014.03.20

0 comments

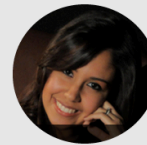


## Solar Week - Celebrate the Sun-Earth Connection!

Do you know your solar flares from your sunspots? How does solar energy actually work? Why is the Sun so important to life on Earth? Learn all about the Sun with Solar Week! This bi-annual celebration (in Spring and Fall) encourages students in grades 5-9 to explore the wonders of our nearest star. This week features daily games and activities, as well as curriculum for educators, to allow students to follow along for a week of solar study! [Read more](#)

Created 2014.03.18

0 comments



## Women's History Month, Part 1

Women's History Month is a great time to encourage girls to consider careers in STEM. Seeing women who work in science and engineering inspires and motivates girls because it's easier for them to identify with female role models who have interests and backgrounds similar to their own. However, getting girls to consider STEM careers needs to overcome not only gender stereotypes they share about scientists and engineers, but also the social pressure they face in middle and high school. They need to see cool, smart women in STEM jobs in order to visualize themselves in these careers. [Read more](#)

Created 2014.03.13

0 comments

# How to Register



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Home About News and Events Data & Images Strandmaps Blog **Log in Register**

*Engineering and design in the classroom!*  
**Finding and Supporting the E in STEM** [Learn more here](#)

*Browse our collections*  
Audience Topics

*Search for Resources*  
Enter a search term here   
All Audiences   
**Search**

Discover Educator Resources for These Categories Featured Lists

- Pre-kindergarten
- Elementary School
- Middle School

- Science Storybooks and Activities for Elementary Children** by NASA Wavelength
- Maven: Studying Mysteries of the Red Planet** by NASA Wavelength
- Multiverse Moon** by Multiverse

**Sign In Using**

Or

[register using email address](#)

# Sample User Profile Page

## Contact NASA Wavelength

Your name \*

Your e-mail address \*

To

NASA Wavelength

Subject \*

Message \*

Send yourself a copy.

Send message

# How to List build

**NASA WAVELENGTH**  
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**Add Resource to List** Close Window

**Ice Has Structure: H2O**

**Notes**

Enter any notes you want displayed on your list with this resource.

**Choose a List** - Create a new list -

Choose an existing list or create a new one

**New List Name**

**New List Description**

**New List Privacy**

Is this new list public or private?

Public  
 Private

Cancel Add Resource to List

Physical sciences (13)  
The nature of science (10)  
The nature of technology (1)

**Resource Type** [+]

Activity (15)  
Lesson or lesson plan (13)  
Instructor guide/manual (12)  
Assessment item (8)

Planetary Science Add to List Go to Resource View Resource Details

This is a lesson about water and water-ice. Learners will explore the molecular geometry and mechanics of ice. They will create a model of H<sub>2</sub>O, investigate its molecular structure and its consistent shape. Faraday's experiment is used as background.... [\(View More\)](#)

**Audience:** Pre-kindergarten, Elementary school  
**Materials Cost:** \$1 - \$5 per group of students

10 of 15

Feedback



# How to Search for Resources



## Learning Time ?

- Under 5 minutes (25)
- 5 to 10 minutes (53)
- 10 to 30 minutes (246)
- 30 to 45 minutes (370)
- 45 to 60 minutes (413)
- 1 to 2 hours (379)
- 2 to 4 hours (206)
- 4 to 6 hours (68)
- 6 to 24 hours (12)
- 1 to 7 days (23)
- 1 to 4 weeks (27)
- 1 to 12 months (9)

## Materials Cost ?

- Free (810)
- 1 cent - \$1 (312)
- \$1 - \$5 (249)
- \$5 - \$10 (68)
- \$10 - \$20 (23)
- Over \$20 (34)

## Instructional Strategies [+] ?

- Hands-on learning (725)
- Discussions (570)
- Nonlinguistic representations (442)
- Guided inquiry (403)
- Identifying similarities and differences (266)
- [View more...](#)

## SMD Forum ?

- Astrophysics (302)
- Earth Science (903)
- Heliophysics (369)
- Planetary Science (473)



Heliophysics

[Add to List](#)

[Go To Resource](#)

[View Resource Details](#)



### Solar Week Friday: Blog

This is a reading associated with activities during Solar Week, a twice-yearly event in March and October during which classrooms are able to interact with scientists studying the Sun. Outside of Solar Week, information, activities, and resources... [\(View More\)](#)

**Audience:** [Elementary school](#), [Middle school](#), [High school](#)

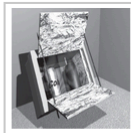


Heliophysics

[Add to List](#)

[Go To Resource](#)

[View Resource Details](#)



### Solar Week Thursday: Shoebox Solar Water Heater

This is an activity during Solar Week, a twice-yearly event in March and October during which classrooms are able to interact with scientists studying the Sun. Outside of Solar Week, information, activities, and resources are archived and available... [\(View More\)](#)

**Audience:** [Elementary school](#), [Middle school](#), [High school](#)  
**Materials Cost:** [1 cent - \\$1 per student](#)



Heliophysics

[Add to List](#)

[Go To Resource](#)

[View Resource Details](#)



### Solar Week Monday: Learn about the Sun as a Star

This is a set of readings associated with activities during Solar Week, a twice-yearly event in March and October during which classrooms are able to interact with scientists studying the Sun. Outside of Solar Week, information, activities, and... [\(View More\)](#)

**Audience:** [Elementary school](#), [Middle school](#), [High school](#)



Heliophysics

[Add to List](#)

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[View Resource Details](#)

# Search by Filtering

The screenshot shows a search interface with a 'Narrow Search' sidebar on the left and a main search area on the right. The sidebar lists 'Audience' categories: Pre-kindergarten (1), Elementary school (7), and Middle school (3). A red circle highlights a question mark icon next to the 'Audience' header. The main search area shows 'Your search found 8 results.' and 'Filters:'. The filters include 'Educational Level: MIDDLE SCHOOL', 'Topics/Subjects: EARTH PROCESSES', and 'Materials Cost: \$5 - \$10'. Red arrows point to the 'x' icons on the filter boxes. Below the filters is a search bar with the text 'Enter a search term here'. A modal window titled 'Audience' is open, providing definitions for Pre-Kindergarten, Elementary School, Primary Elementary, Upper Elementary, Middle School, and High School. At the bottom of the page, there are buttons for 'Add to List', 'Go To Resource', and 'View Resource Details', along with a 'Keywords' section listing 'Chesapeake Bay', 'Audience: Elementary school, Middle school, Informal education', and 'Materials Cost: \$5 - \$10'.

**Narrow Search**

**Audience** ?

- Pre-kindergarten (1)
- Elementary school (7)
- Middle school (3)

Your search found 8 results. **Filters:**

Educational Level: MIDDLE SCHOOL

Topics/Subjects: EARTH PROCESSES

Materials Cost: \$5 - \$10

Enter a search term here

## Audience

A grade level or educational setting associated with a resource.

**Pre-Kindergarten:** Resource is appropriate for child learners engaged in activities and/or experiences that are intended to effect developmental changes from birth to entrance in kindergarten (or grade 1 when kindergarten is not attended).

**Elementary School:** Resource is appropriate for learners in kindergarten through grade 5.

**Primary Elementary:** Resource is appropriate for learners in kindergarten through grade 2.

**Upper Elementary:** Resource is appropriate for learners in grades 3 through 5.

**Middle School:** Resource is appropriate for learners in grades 6 through 8.

**High School:** Resource is appropriate for learners in grades 9 through 12.

30 to 45 minutes (1)

1 to 2 hours (2)

2 to 4 hours (2)

4 to 6 hours (1)

6 to 24 hours (1)

1 to 7 days (1)

**Keywords:** Chesapeake Bay

**Audience:** Elementary school, Middle school, Informal education

**Materials Cost:** \$5 - \$10

Earth Science

Add to List

Go To Resource

View Resource Details

# Search Results



➤ [Back to Search](#)



**Earth Science**

## Water Cycle Webquest

Students are introduced to the Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) satellite mission and its role in studying the water cycle. This webquest provides links to eight websites, allowing middle school students to explore the water cycle and its impacts on Earth's weather and climate. Through online videos and articles, students follow a water molecule through the cycle, discover the connection between the water cycle and global water/heat distribution, examine the role of solar energy, and assess the importance of fresh water.

Keywords: [Evaporation](#); [Condensation](#); [Precipitation](#); [Run-off](#); [Water vapor](#); [Salinity](#)

[Add to List](#)

[Go To Resource](#)

**Source**

[NASA GSFC](#)  
Last modified 2013

**Audience**

Education Level: [Middle school](#)  
Audience Refinement: [Educator and learner](#)

**Topics**

[Earth and space science:Earth processes:Climate](#)  
[Earth and space science:Earth processes:Earth's energy budget](#)  
[Earth and space science:Earth processes:Geochemical cycles](#)  
[Earth and space science:Earth structure:Atmosphere](#)  
[Earth and space science:Earth structure:Ocean and water](#)  
[Physical sciences:Heat and thermodynamics](#)  
[Physical sciences:Energy](#)

### Benchmark: 4B/M7

Water evaporates from the surface of the earth, rises and cools, condenses into rain or snow, and falls again to the surface. The water falling on land collects in rivers and lakes, soil, and porous layers of rock, and much of it flows back into the oceans. The cycling of water in and out of the atmosphere is a significant aspect of the weather patterns on Earth.

Alignment Strength: Related

[Click to view this benchmark in the AAAS Strandmap](#)

Benchmarks: [4B/E3](#), [4B/M7](#), [4B/M9](#), [4E/E2b](#)

### User Lists

This resource is part of these lists:



[Hydrology](#)  
by [Nancy B. Sills](#)



[GPM Resources](#)  
by [Morgan Woroner](#)



[Earth's Systems- NSTA 2014](#)  
by [Dorian Wood Janney](#)

# Other Features



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Audience Topics

*Search for Resources*  
Enter a search term here 🔍  
All Audiences ▾  
**Search**

Discover Educator Resources for These Categories ..... Featured Lists .....

- Pre-kindergarten
- Elementary School
- Middle School

- Science Storybooks and Activities for Elementary Children**  
by [NASA Wavelength](#)
- Maven: Studying Mysteries of the Red Planet**  
by [NASA Wavelength](#)
- Multiverse Moon**  
by [Multiverse](#)

# News & Events



View Edit

Today April 2014 Week Month Agenda

| Sun   | Mon | Tue   | Wed | Thu   | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| 30  | 31  | Apr 1 | 2   | 3     | 4   | 5   |
| <b>NASA/NSTA Open Online Course - Teaching Tomorrow's Engineers (gr. 6-8)</b><br><b>Entries Due - NASA 2014 NASA Planets &amp; Moons Contest</b><br><b>Applications Due - Cassini Scientist Essay Contest</b><br><b>"Train the Trainer" Webinars</b>  |     |       |     |       |     |     |
| <b>When</b> Thursday, Apr 17, 2014<br><b>Description</b> The Cassini Scientist for a Day contest challenges students to become NASA scientists studying Saturn. Participants examine three possible observations taken by Cassini and are tasked to choose the one they think will yield the best scientific results. The choice must then be supported in a 500-word essay. For more information, please visit the contest <a href="#">website</a> . |     |       |     |       |     |     |
| 6   | 7   | 8     | 9   | 10    | 11  | 12  |
| <b>NASA/NSTA Open Online Course - Teaching Tomorrow's Engineers (gr. 6-8)</b><br><b>NSTA 2014 National Astronomy Camp</b><br><b>12pm NASA DLN Event</b><br><b>6:30pm Webinar - Planets &amp; Moons</b>  |     |       |     |       |     |     |
| 13  | 14  | 15    | 16  | 17    | 18  | 19  |
| <b>NASA/NSTA Open Online Course - Teaching Tomorrow's Engineers (gr. 6-8)</b><br><b>5:30pm Webinar - NASA Planets &amp; Moons</b><br><b>Applications Due - Cassini Scientist Essay Contest</b><br><b>Nominations Due - Cassini Scientist Essay Contest</b><br><b>Registration Due - Cassini Scientist Essay Contest</b><br><a href="#">more details</a> <a href="#">copy to my calendar</a>   |     |       |     |       |     |     |
| 20  | 21  | 22    | 23  | 24    | 25  | 26  |
| <b>NASA/NSTA Open Online Course: Teaching Tomorrow's Engineers (gr. 6-8)</b><br><b>Applications Due - Earth Day</b><br><b>12pm NASA DLN Event</b><br><b>2pm Webinar - Discover the Beauty of Earth</b><br><b>Beautiful Earth Multi-Media Contest</b><br><b>2pm Virtual Field Trip</b><br><b>USA Science &amp; Engineering Fair</b>  |     |       |     |       |     |     |
| 27  | 28  | 29    | 30  | May 1 | 2   | 3   |
| <b>NASA/NSTA Open Online Course: Teaching Tomorrow's Engineers (gr. 6-8)</b><br><b>USA Science &amp; Engineering Fair</b><br><b>6:30pm Webinar - Science Fair</b><br><b>7pm Webinar - Mars</b>  |     |       |     |       |     |     |

Events shown in time zone: Eastern Time

Google Calendar

# Data & Images



## Advanced

Access full scientific datasets and/or analysis tools for conducting research and analysis.

Legend: Earth Moon Sun Planets Universe

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Educators Guide to NASA Earth Science Images and Data</b> </p> <p><a href="http://nasaesw.strategies.org/images-data-educators-guide-to-nasa-earth-science-images-and-data/">http://nasaesw.strategies.org/images-data-educators-guide-to-nasa-earth-science-images-and-data/</a></p> | <p>This 16-page booklet illustrates multiple NASA sources that allow educators to incorporate real Earth science data and images in their teaching. Sample resources as well as firsthand accounts of how these are being used in the classroom or informal education setting are included. Includes sections on introductory, intermediate, and advanced sources of data and images.</p>  |
| <p><b>EOSDIS - Earth Data Website</b> </p> <p><a href="http://earthdata.nasa.gov/data">http://earthdata.nasa.gov/data</a></p>   | <p>NASA's Earth Observing System (EOS) comprises a series of satellites, a science component and a data system, which is called <a href="#">The Earth Observing System Data and Information System (EOSDIS)</a>. EOSDIS distributes thousands of Earth system science data products and associated services for interdisciplinary studies. Almost all data in EOSDIS are held online and accessed via ftp.</p>   |
| <p><b>Giovanni</b> </p> <p><a href="http://disc.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/giovanni">http://disc.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/giovanni</a></p>  | <p>Giovanni is a Web-based application developed by the GES DISC that provides a simple and intuitive way to visualize, analyze, and access vast amounts of Earth science remote sensing data without having to download the data. Giovanni is an acronym for the GES-DISC (Goddard Earth Sciences Data and Information Services Center) Interactive Online Visualization AND aNalysis Infrastructure.</p>   |
| <p><b>Hera: Astronomical Data Analysis Over the Internet</b> </p> <p><a href="http://heasarc.nasa.gov/hera/">http://heasarc.nasa.gov/hera/</a></p>  | <p>Hera is the data processing facility provided by the HEASARC at the NASA GSFC for analyzing FITS format. astronomical data files. Hera provides all the preinstalled software packages, local disk space, and computing resources needed to do general processing of FITS format data files residing on the user's local computer, and to do advanced research using the publicly available data from High Energy Astrophysics missions. Qualified students, educators, and researchers may freely use the Hera services over the internet for research and educational purposes.</p> |
| <p><b>Planetary Data System</b> </p> <p><a href="http://pds.nasa.gov/">http://pds.nasa.gov/</a></p>   | <p>The PDS archives and distributes scientific data from NASA planetary missions, astronomical observations, and laboratory measurements. The PDS is sponsored by NASA's Science Mission Directorate. Its purpose is to ensure the long-term usability of NASA data and to stimulate advanced research.</p>  |

# Strandmaps



## Strandmaps

[View](#) [Edit](#)

Science Literacy Strandmaps are a tool to find resources from the Wavelength collection that relate to specific science and math concepts. The maps illustrate connections between concepts as well as how concepts build upon one another across grade levels. Clicking on a concept within the maps will show NASA Wavelength resources relevant to the concept, as well as information about related AAAS Project 2061 Benchmarks, as well as common misconceptions and assessments.

Following are links to AAAS strandmaps that are most relevant to NASA Earth and space science.

### The Physical Setting

- ▶ [Galaxies and the Universe](#)
- ▶ [Stars](#)
- ▶ [The Solar System](#)
- ▶ [Weather and Climate](#)
- ▶ [Changes in Earth's Surface](#)
- ▶ [Plate Tectonics](#)
- ▶ [States of Matter](#)
- ▶ [Energy Transformations](#)
- ▶ [Gravity](#)
- ▶ [Waves](#)
- ▶ [Electricity and Magnetism](#)

### The Nature of Science

- ▶ [Evidence and Reasoning in Inquiry](#)
- ▶ [Scientific Investigations](#)
- ▶ [Scientific Theories](#)
- ▶ [Science and Society](#)
- ▶ [The Scientific Community](#)
- ▶ [Scientific World View](#)

### Common Themes

- ▶ [Systems](#)
- ▶ [Models](#)
- ▶ [Patterns of Change](#)
- ▶ [Scale](#)

### The Living Environment

- ▶ [Flow of Energy in Ecosystems](#)

### The Designed World

- ▶ [Energy Resources](#)

### Habits of Mind

- ▶ [Computation and Estimation](#)
- ▶ [Communication Skills](#)

### The Nature of Technology

- ▶ [Technology and Science](#)

**Benchmark info**

The weather is always changing and can be described by measurable quantities such as temperature, wind direction and speed, and precipitation. Large masses of air with certain properties move across the surface of the earth. The movement and interaction of these air masses is used to forecast the weather. *4B/E5* (ID: SMS-BMK-2044)

Grade range: 3 - 5

This benchmark is found in the following maps: Weather and Climate

Aligned Related NGSS Standards

Aligned resources in NASA Wavelength collection:

- [S'COOL Lesson: Fahrenheit vs Celsius](#)
- [Weather Stations](#)
- [MY NASA DATA: Cold, Clouds and Snowflakes](#)
- [MY NASA DATA: Creating a Bar Graph](#)
- [MY NASA DATA: Cloudy vs. Clear](#)
- [MY NASA DATA: The Sun's Energy](#)
- [MY NASA DATA: Sailing trip](#)

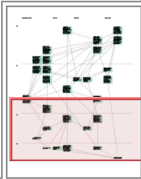
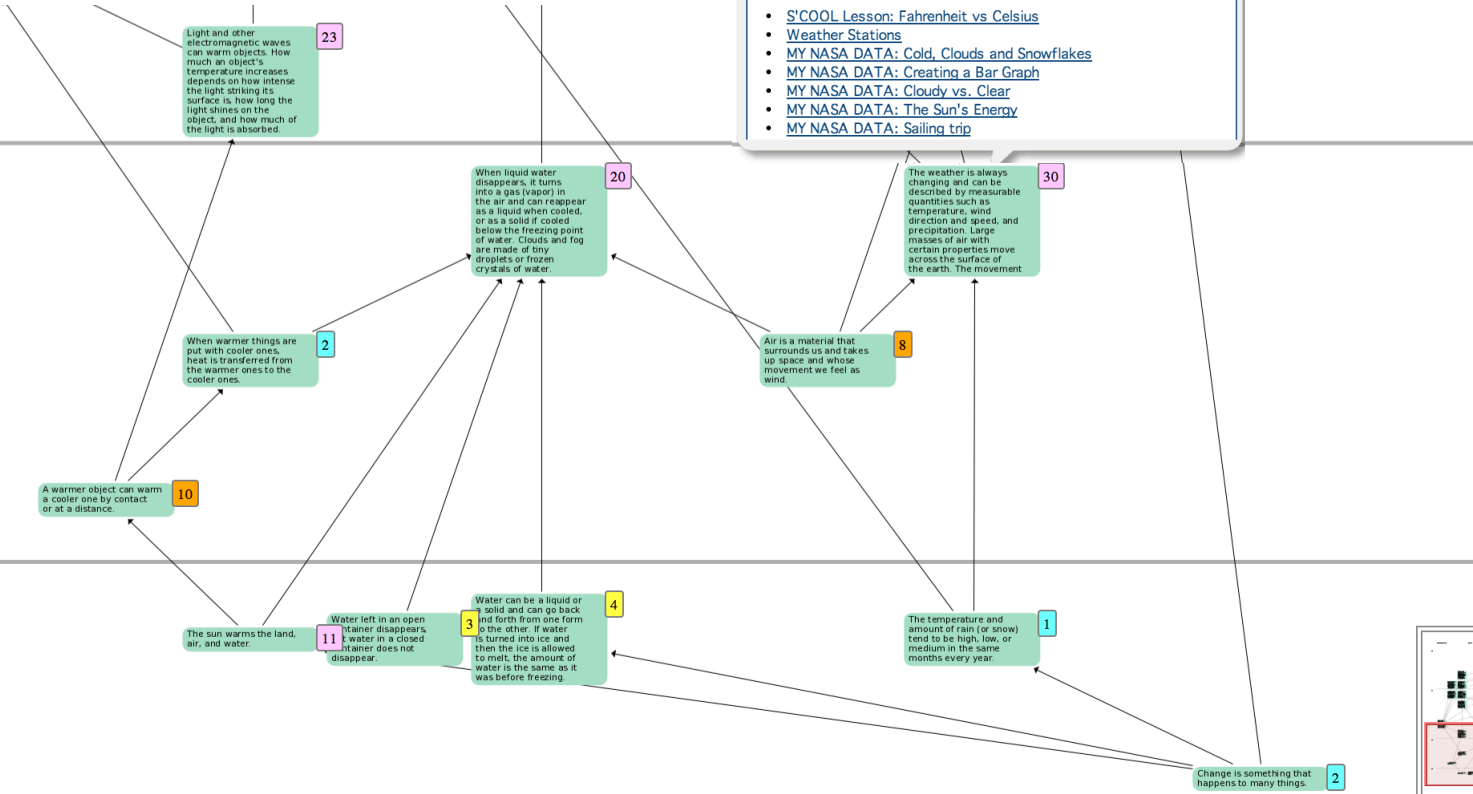
temperature and winds

water cycle

atmosphere

3-5  
↑

K-2  
↑





# Water Cycle Strandmap

water cycle

grades 9-12

Life is adapted to conditions on the earth, including the force of gravity that enables the planet to retain an adequate atmosphere, and an intensity of electromagnetic waves from the sun that allows water to be present in the liquid state. 19

grades 6-8

Water evaporates from the surface of the earth, rises and cools, condenses into rain or snow, and falls again to the surface. The water falling on land collects in rivers and lakes, soil, and porous layers of rock, and much of it flows back into the 32

grades 3-5

When liquid water disappears, it turns into a gas (vapor) in the air and can reappear as a liquid when cooled, or as a solid if cooled below the freezing point of water. Clouds and fog are made of tiny droplets or frozen crystals of water. 20

grades K-2

Water left in an open container disappears, but water in a closed container does not disappear. 3

Water can be a liquid or a solid and can go back and forth from one form to the other. If water is turned into ice and then the ice is allowed to melt, the amount of water is the same as it was before freezing. 4





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