

NAME: _____

date: _____



Thunderstorm Season

You are a meteorologist studying convective cloud cover in order to accurately predict “Thunderstorm” season for your continent.

1. Open MyNASAData.

<http://mynasadata.larc.nasa.gov/>

2. Click on +Data Access

3. Click on +Live Access Server (Advanced Edition)

4. Under Select Data Set, click on Atmosphere

5. Under Dataset, select Clouds

6. Under dataset, select Cloud Coverage

7. Under Dataset, select Monthly Cloud Coverage for Deep Convective Clouds (ISCCP)

8. Click on the red Next button

9. Check that the following options are selected:

View: Longitude-Latitude map (xy)

Output: Color plot comparison

Region: CHOOSE YOUR CONTINENT

Select time: Jan 1994

10. Click the red Next. A window will appear with 4 possible maps.

11. Keep the first map with original date Jan 1994.

12. On the remaining 3 maps, change the dates to Apr 1994, Jul 1994, and Oct 1994.

13. Take a look at the four maps. If you would like to see larger images, click on the map. This will open a new window with a larger map.

14. Choose one of the months to investigate over time. Try to choose the one with the most deep convective cloud cover.

15. Repeat Steps 1-10.

16. You should now have 4 maps displaying your data.

17. Change the months on the maps to the month you have chosen to investigate further.

18. Keep the year of the first map as 1994. Change the remaining three to 1998, 2003, and 2007.

Using cardinal directions, describe the area of your continent that has the most consistent convective cloud levels.

Are there areas with interesting differences over the years? If so, list them and explain what changes.

Choose a month to label as “Thunderstorm Season” and explain your choice.