MND recognizes that teaching science is about helping students make sense of the world around them, not memorizing facts and principles. MND makes teaching Earth Science easier (and more interesting) by organizing NASA data with the phenomena that they support. By providing these data, in the forms of maps, line plots, etc., students develop models to explain or predict the phenomena using evidence.

Phenomena are the context for learning science. These are naturally occurring events that are used by teachers as opportunities to have students observe, ponder, inquire, explain, and predict using scientific evidence. For more information on the use of phenomena, see the link.