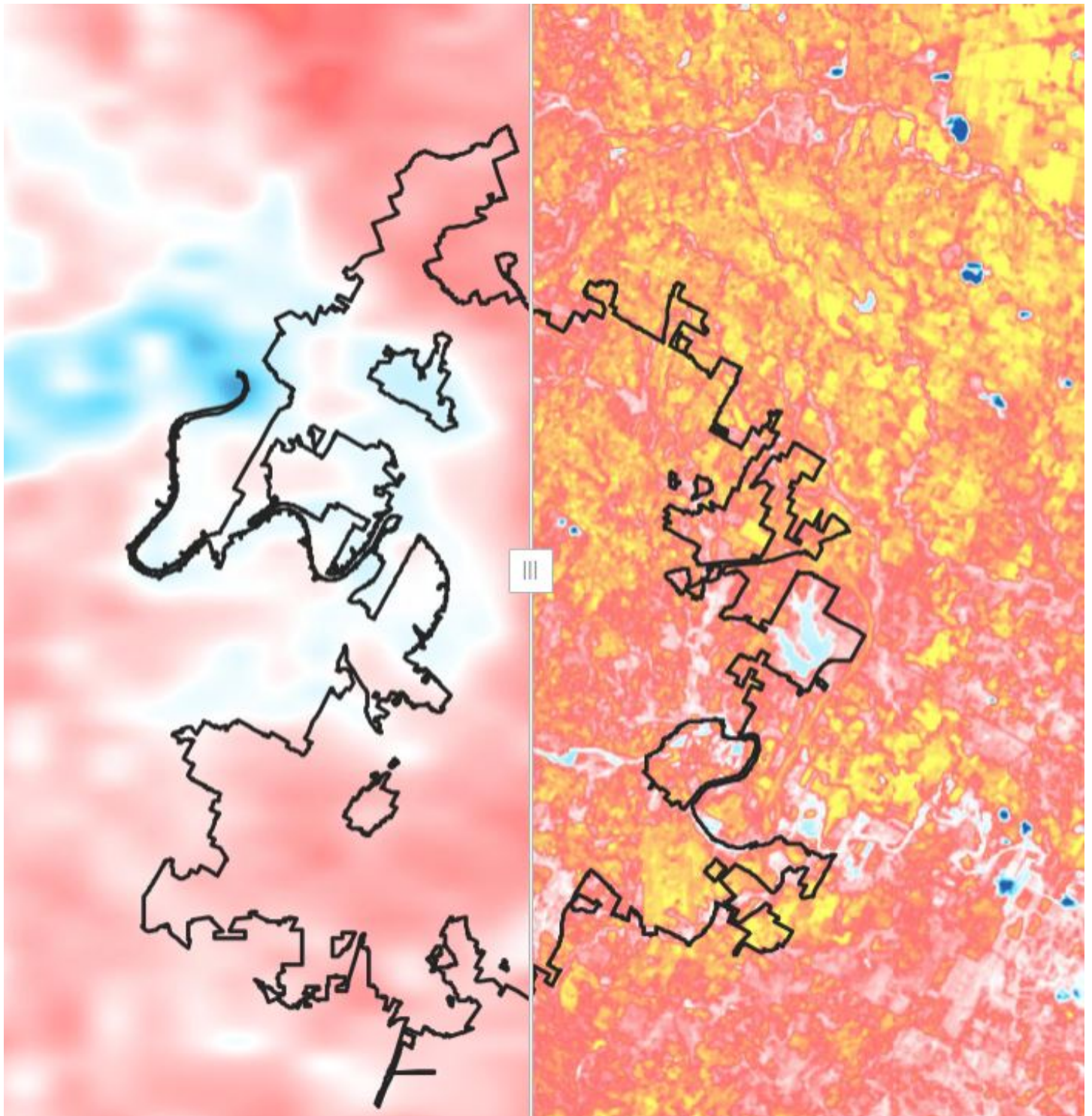


My NASA Data - Interactive Models

Exploring the Tradeoffs of Surface Temperature Models



Comparison of Surface (Skin) Temperature from MODIS Terra and Landsat 8

Austin, Texas City Limits



Left Side:

MODIS Terra

Surface (Skin) Temperature
(degrees Fahrenheit)



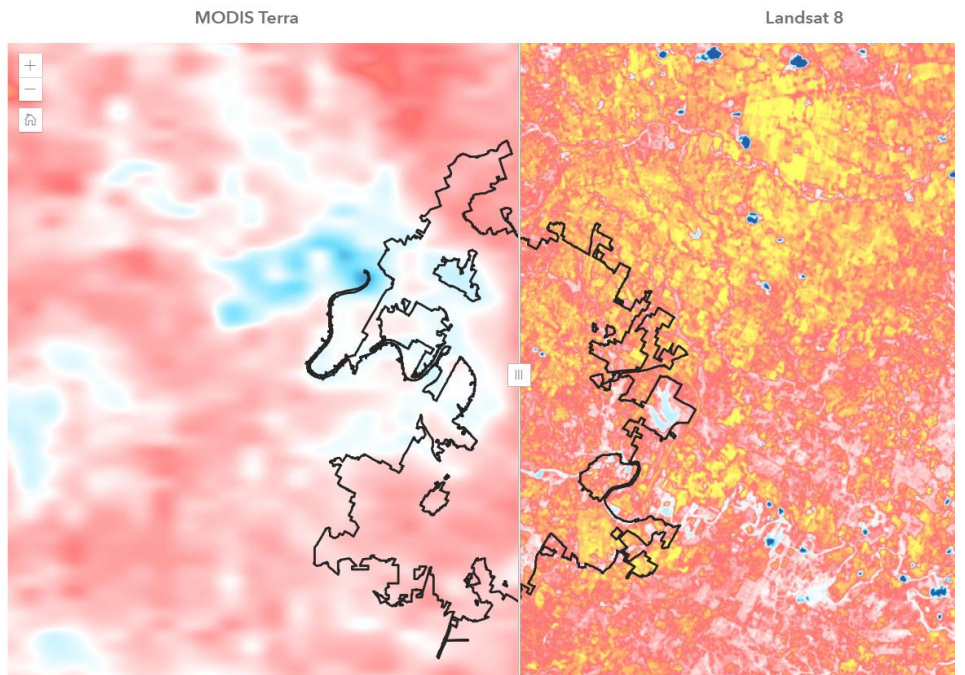
Right Side:

Landsat 8

Surface (Skin) Temperature
(degrees Fahrenheit)



Shown on the maps is surface (skin) temperature data collected by two different satellites on August 18th, 2020 in the city of Austin, Texas. On the left is data collected by MODIS Terra, and on the right is data collected by Landsat 8. Surface (skin) temperature describes the temperature of the land in the topmost layer (first few centimeters)



[CLICK HERE](#)

Learning Objectives

- Students will list and describe the different characteristics of satellite data.
- Students will describe the advantages and disadvantages of using two different satellites to study the Urban Heat Island Effect.

Essential Questions

1. What are the advantages and disadvantages to using MODIS Terra or Landsat 8 to study the Urban Heat Island Effect?
2. Why might a scientist use two different satellites to study the same phenomenon?
3. How does pixel size influence the scale at which you can study a phenomenon?

Materials Required

- Computer/Tablet
- Internet Access
- Google Form (optional)
- Link to [Exploring the Tradeoffs of Surface Temperature Models](#)

Teacher Answer Key

Teachers who are interested in receiving the answer key, please contact My NASA Data from your school email address at larc-mynasadata@mail.nasa.gov

Grade Band

-
- [3-5](#)
 - [6-8](#)
 - [9-12](#)

Supported NGSS Performance Expectations

- [3-5-ETS1-2: Generate and compare multiple possible solutions to a problem based on how well each is likely to meet the criteria and constraints of the problem.](#)
- [MS-ETS1-2: Evaluate competing design solutions using a systematic process to determine how well they meet the criteria and constraints of the problem.](#)
- [HS-ETS1-3: Evaluate a solution to a complex real-world problem based on prioritized criteria and trade-offs that account for a range of constraints, including cost, safety, reliability, and aesthetics as well as possible social, cultural, and environmental](#)

NGSS Disciplinary Core Ideas

- [ETS1B: Developing Possible Solutions](#)

Science and Engineering Practices

- [Developing and Using Models](#)
- [Analyzing and Interpreting Data](#)
- [Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions](#)

Crosscutting Concepts

- [Scale, Proportion, and Quantity](#)
- [Interdependence of Science, Engineering, and Technology](#)

Related Resources

-
- [Patterns in Earth's Surface Temperature Interactive Model](#)
 - [Human Impact and the Creation of Urban Heat Islands](#)