NASA thinks you will “flip out” with this hands-on visualization!

NASA visualizers take data – numbers, codes – and turn them into animations people can see and quickly understand. You can become a data visualizer by creating your own flipbook animations using maps of science variables that NASA scientists commonly study to better understand the Earth System. Each frame in this flipbook shows monthly averages collected in 2016 and 2017. There are six flipbooks available for different science variables: aerosols, cloud coverage, vegetation concentrations, precipitation, incoming solar radiation, and surface temperature. Please visit our website for more information.

The processes in the Earth System take place in and between the Atmosphere, Cryosphere, Hydrosphere, Biosphere, and Geosphere, as well as include energy from the Sun. As we can see, Earth System processes are not bound by oceans, mountains, or country delineations—they are truly global in scope!

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:
- What do the colors in the flipbook represent?
- How does this variable change over time?
- Why do you think these changes occur?
- What is affected by these changes?

MATERIALS NEEDED:
- Binder clip
- Scissors
- Copier Paper

INSTRUCTIONS
1. PRINT flipbook on cardstock.
2. CUT cardstock along the dotted line, making 26 frames.
3. STACK the 26 frames in order. The frames are numbered.
4. CLIP the stack of frames together, with the binder clip.
5. FLIP through the stack quickly. Watch and enjoy the animation.

SATELLITE STUDIES:
Earth System Science

Satellites collect data to help unlock the unexpected wonders of how our Earth works as a system.

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Aerosol Optical Depth is a dimensionless value of aerosols (small solid and liquid particles suspended in the atmosphere) distributed in a column of air. Examples of aerosols include windblown dust, sea salts, volcanic ash, smoke from wildfires, and pollution from factories. (MISR)