Making a Cloud Observation

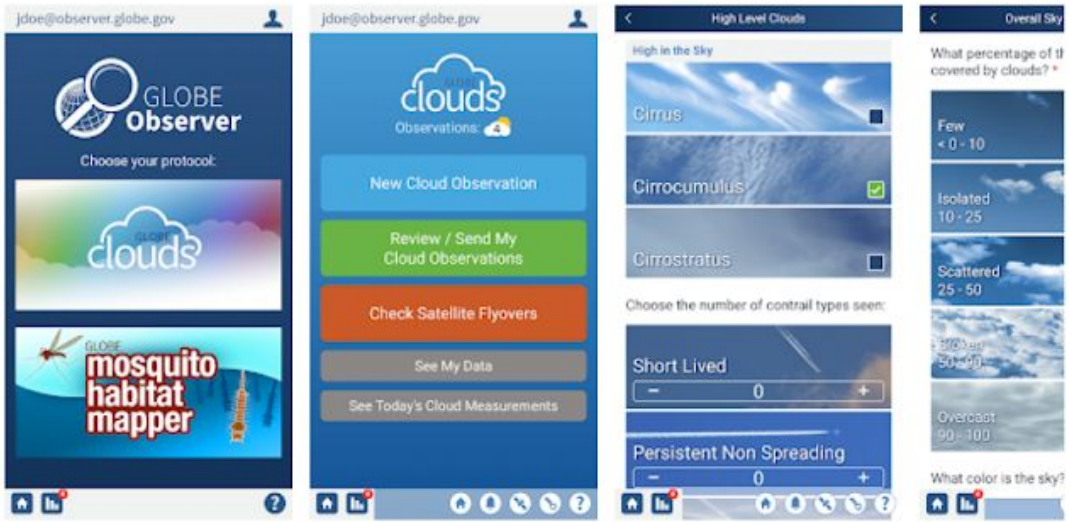
Scientists need accurate data on clouds to understand their impact over time. Satellites only see the **top of the clouds** while we see the **bottom of clouds** —together we get a much more complete picture of clouds and their effects in the atmosphere.

Satellite view of clouds over the East Coast of USA

Ground level view of clouds over the East Coast of USA

Why is it important to observe clouds both from above and from below?

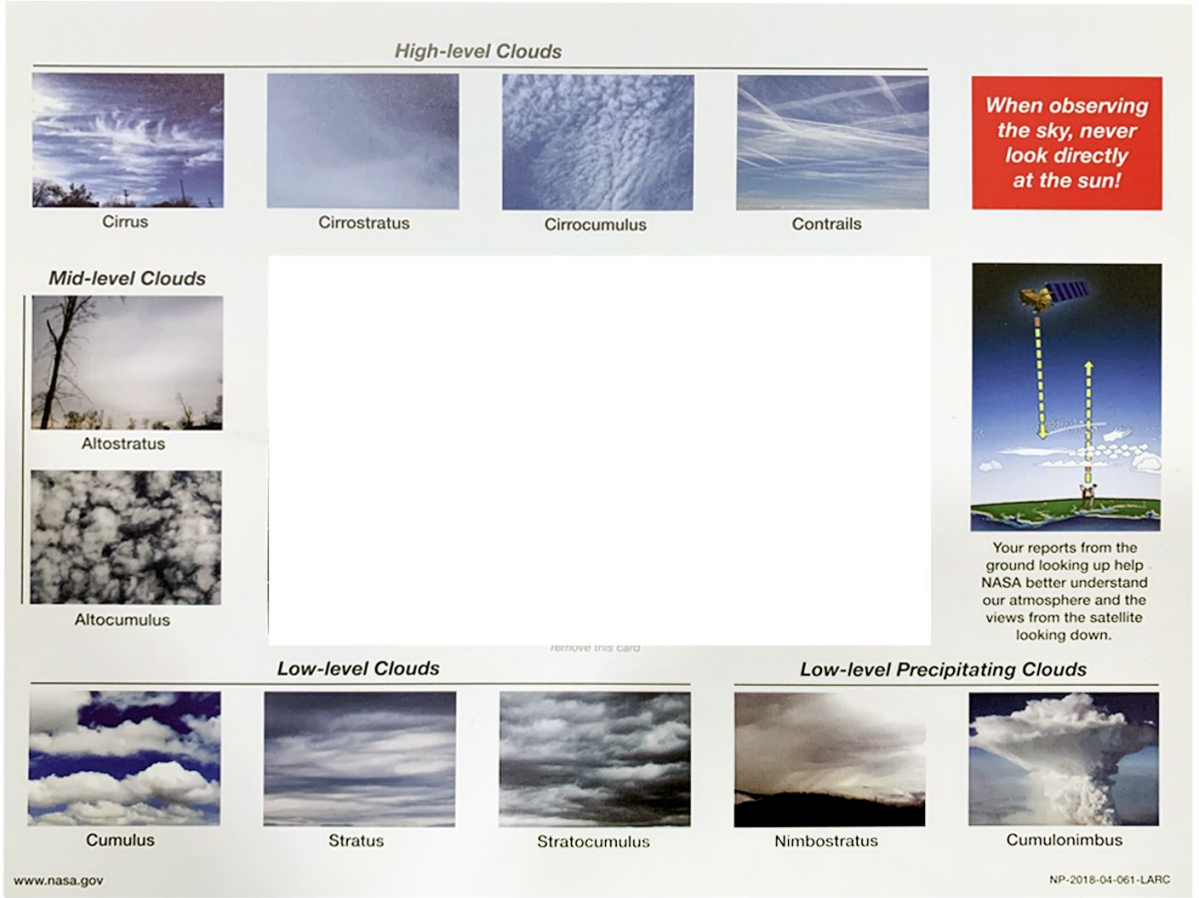
We can serve as neighborhood scientists in the observation and reporting of cloud conditions from the ground in coordination with satellite observations. Cloud data can be submitted using the **GLOBE Observer App** or by going to **observer.globe.gov**



Scan to download the GLOBE Observer App

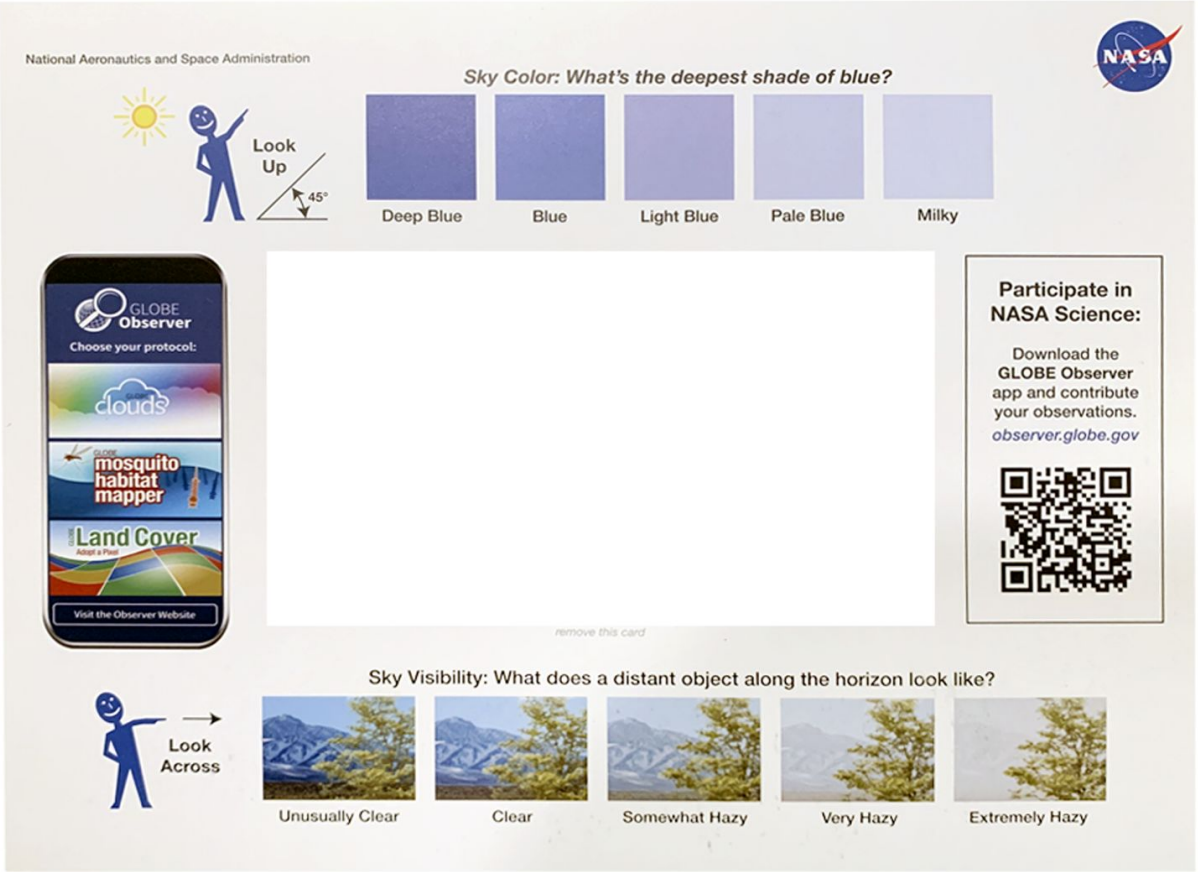
One useful tool while making observations is the identification frame included in the **Neighborhood Science Kit**.

One side of the frame includes images of **cloud types** to compare to the conditions you are observing.



On the other side of the frame, there are reference images to determine the **sky color**, which should be referenced to the clear sky at 45° from the horizon.

Sky visibility can also be compared to the reference images below the frame's window by looking across to objects on the horizon.



Sky observation data is useful to scientists when paired with **date**, **time**, and GPS **location** information.

Included in the Neighborhood Science Kit is a **Mini GPS location finder** for providing accurate observation location data.

A Successful Cloud Observation Includes


Happy
Observing!