Landsat Portrait of America

A mosaic of Landsat 8 satellite images showing the contiguous United States of America

The Legacy of Landsat

The Landsat Program is a central pillar of our national remote-sensing capability and represents the world's longest continuous satellite record of the Earth's surface.

As a joint initiative between NASA and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the first Landsat satellite was launched in 1972. Since then, the Program has provided a wealth of information about the Earth's surface, in support of scientific and economic development at the national, state, and local levels. The data obtained from Landsat missions have been used to support government, commercial, industrial, civilian, military, and educational applications throughout the United States and worldwide.

In 1977, NASA Administrator James Fletcher predicted that if one space-age development would save the world, it would be Landsat and its commercial variants. Since then, Landsat data have contributed to understanding the Earth’s environment, supporting decisions made at every level of society from the continental scale to industry and have inspired a new generation of commercial satellites that provide real-time, very high-resolution images.

The Landsat 8 mosaic of the U.S. was created by Desert Research (www.desertyak.com) in 2017 and used with permission.
Lands of Landsat

Since 1972, Landsat satellites have provided us with a unique view of our planet’s ecosystems and changes in land cover.

Parks

Landsat images can reveal both natural and human-made changes in land cover and water use. Citizens of Landsat’s global mapping tours are visible from large mammals and tiny insects. Over the course of just a few years, When the land does change, Landsat’s observations help humans understand how quickly succession or abandonment.

Forests

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Cities

Views from space show how cities have transformed, patterns and changes in land cover and water use. Citizens of Landsat’s global mapping tours are visible from large mammals and tiny insects. Over the course of just a few years, When the land does change, Landsat’s observations help humans understand how quickly succession or abandonment.

Farms

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Islands

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How to Play

You can turn pages by playing pieces and placing them from the box at the bottom. Each box contains an instruction or question. You can turn pages by matching the end of one page with the beginning of another. The pages are organized so that you can progress through the book in order.

Landsat Satellite

Landsat data show how land use is changing across the globe. The data are provided free of charge to the public. Landsat satellites are circling Earth, capturing images of the planet every few days. The data are available for download and analysis.

Benefits to Society

Landsat data provide valuable information for a range of applications, including environmental monitoring, resource management, and climate change studies. The data are used to study the effects of human activities on the environment, such as deforestation, desertification, and changes in land use. The data are also used to monitor the effects of natural disasters, such as wildfires, floods, and hurricanes. The data are used to study the effects of climate change, such as changes in temperature and precipitation patterns. The data are used to study the effects of human activities on the environment, such as deforestation, desertification, and changes in land use. The data are also used to monitor the effects of natural disasters, such as wildfires, floods, and hurricanes. The data are used to study the effects of climate change, such as changes in temperature and precipitation patterns.

AmericaView

AmericaView is a group of experts, researchers, educators, and students that work together to bring the benefits of Landsat data to a broader audience. AmericaView provides educational resources, tools, and services to help people understand the data and its applications.

Earth Observation Day

Earth Observation Day is an annual event that celebrates the power of Earth observation to inform and inspire action on a global scale. The day is marked by a range of events and activities around the world, including educational activities, workshops, and presentations. The day is an opportunity to highlight the importance of Earth observation in addressing challenges such as climate change, environmental degradation, and poverty.

Watch for Landsat 9 to launch in 2020!