



Earth as seen on July 6, 2015 from a distance of one million miles by a NASA scientific camera aboard the Deep Space Climate Observatory spacecraft. Credits: NASA

Earth:

The color of Earth is one we are intimately familiar with, thanks to decades of aerial, orbital, and space-based photography. As a terrestrial planet with a thick nitrogen-oxygen atmosphere, Earth's appearance comes down to the light-scattering effect of our planet's atmosphere and our oceans, which causes blue light to scatter more than other colors because of the shortness of its wavelength. The presence of water absorbs light from the red end of the spectrum, similarly presenting a blue appearance to space. This leads to our planet having its "Blue Marble" appearance, along with white clouds covering much of the skies. The surface features, depending on what one is looking at, can range from green (where sufficient vegetation and forests are to be found), to yellow and brown (in the case of deserts and mountainous regions, to white again (where clouds and large ice formations are concerned).