

Claire L. Parkinson\*, Steven M. Graham, Stephen Dacey, and Katherine Bender  
 NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Aqua, a major satellite of the Earth Observing System (EOS), was launched on May 4, 2002, to study the Earth's water cycle and other aspects of the Earth/atmosphere system. Aqua carries six Earth-observing instruments collecting global data on water in the atmosphere, on the land, and in the surface layer of the oceans, including water in the solid and vapor forms as well as water in the liquid form. Aqua data will also be used to determine atmospheric and surface temperatures and global vegetation. Particular goals of the Aqua mission include improved weather forecasts, through improved measurements of atmospheric temperatures, humidities, and winds, and improved understandings of climate and climate change, through analyses of the coordinated measurements of dozens of climate variables. Although centered at NASA, Aqua has major international participation, particularly from Japan and Brazil, and major participation by other agencies, universities, and private companies within the U.S.

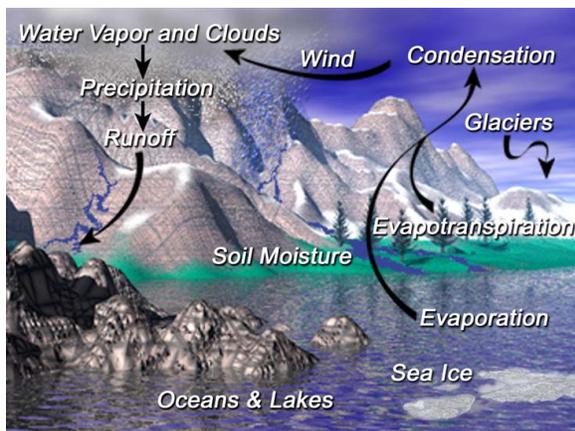


Figure 1. Schematic of the water cycle.

Considerable effort has gone into educational outreach activities for the Aqua mission, both to inform the public about the mission and also to educate them regarding Earth sciences. These efforts will be described here, starting with relatively traditional printed products and proceeding to more innovative web casts and other internet-based activities.

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\*Corresponding author address: Claire L. Parkinson, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Code 971, Greenbelt, MD 20771;  
 e-mail: clairep@neptune.gsfc.nasa.gov

## 2. PRINTED PRODUCTS

Key printed educational products connected with the Aqua mission are:

a. An Aqua brochure. This heavily illustrated 41-page color brochure gives an overview of the mission and its intended science, data flow, and validation activities. It is also a convenient place to find photographs and technical specifications of the spacecraft and its six Earth-observing instruments.

b. Brochures for each of the four U.S. and one Japanese Aqua science teams. These brochures, created through the outreach efforts of the individual science teams, discuss many of the science issues being addressed with Aqua data and provide details about the Aqua instruments being used. The science issues include, as examples, the role of clouds in the climate system, the possibility of an acceleration of the water cycle, and specifics of the interactions amongst the atmosphere, oceans, land, ice, and biosphere.

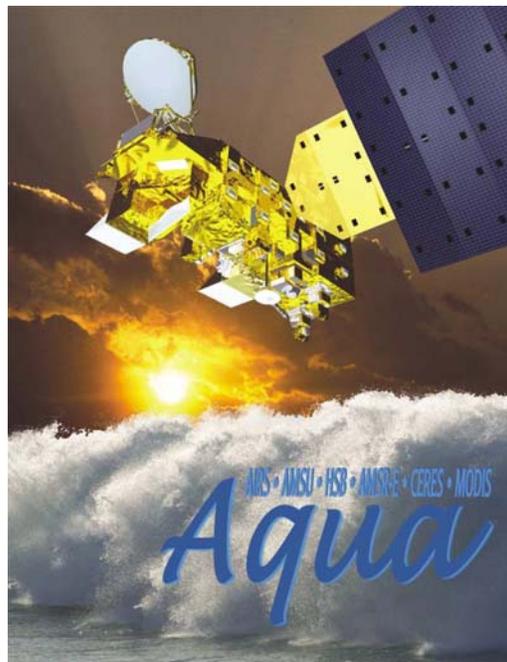


Figure 2. Cover of the Aqua brochure.

## 7. SUMMARY

The Aqua mission has a variety of educational outreach activities, aimed at informing students and the general public about the Aqua mission and educating them about some of the Earth science topics that the Aqua mission is addressing. These activities include printed materials, web casts, web sites, and presentations. The interested reader can learn more about each of these by going to the Aqua web site <http://aqua.nasa.gov>.