

Knowledge box 1



Geography Plus: Little Blue Planet

These knowledge boxes provide background information for teachers to help develop knowledge for teaching about *Little Blue Planet*. For lots more useful sources of information, along with recommended storybooks for pupils' reading, have a look at the **Useful information: weblinks, storybooks and references** sheet. Make sure you have a look at the 'Notes' on the PowerPoints as well; they offer useful snippets of information and questions for your pupils.

Lesson 1: Earth view

The digital image shown on slides 2 and 3 of **PowerPoint 1** is a spectacular picture of the western hemisphere. It was generated by researchers at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Centre using data from three different Earth-observing satellites. Their goal was to assemble an image that recreates the impact of viewing Earth from space with human eyes.

It shows one of the strongest hurricanes ever observed in the Eastern Pacific – Hurricane Linda. Other obvious features include the shallow waters of the Caribbean and sediments around the mouth of the Amazon River.

The underlying image of the full disk of Earth and its clouds was taken on 9 September 1997 by a Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite. The ocean data was collected in late September and early October 1997 and the land colour is portrayed by a vegetation index calculated using data collected 9–19 September 1997 by instruments carried aboard a Polar Orbiting Environmental Satellite.

(NASA, 2006. For more information see http://visibleearth.nasa.gov/view_rec.php?id=174)



Photo: NASA image created by Reto Stockli with the help of Alan Nelson, under the leadership of Fritz Hasler – see http://visibleearth.nasa.gov/view_rec.php?id=174