45°N

0°N

45°S

0°E

90°E

180°E
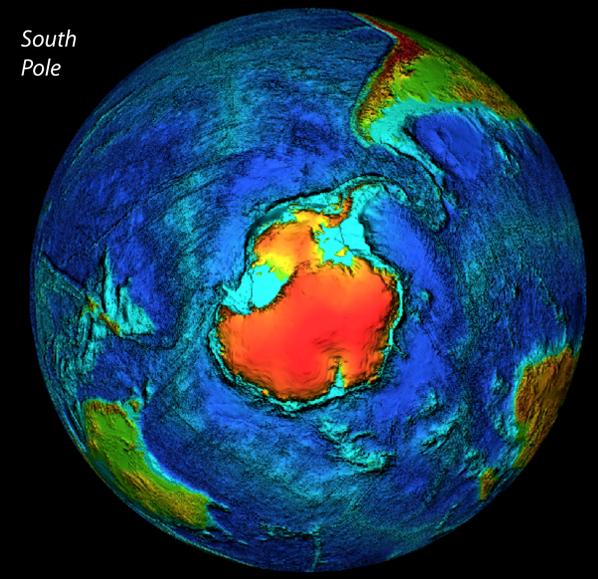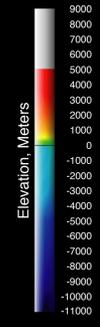
90°W

North Pole

South Pole

Views of the Globe
Modeled from Digital Elevation Data

A texture-mapped, orthographic-projection view was used for rendering the images. This (R4) version of the images now displays the full 2-minute horizontal and 16-bit resolution of the vertical data. The center viewpoints of the globes step 90° of longitude from 0° East around the world eastward to 90° West. Viewpoint latitudes step ±45° either side of the Equator, and directly over the Equator and each pole. As rendered for these images, each pixel covers at least a 3.44 minute square on the earth's surface. An arbitrary color palette was chosen to give a natural look to the continents and oceans, and the colors were assigned according to elevation. The resolution of the gridded data varies from 2 minutes (2 n. mi. or 3.66 km at the Equator) for the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Ocean floors and all land masses to 5 minutes for parts of the Arctic Ocean floor. Most ocean data points were taken from 2-minute gridded ocean depths derived from satellite altimetry of the sea surface between 64° N and 72°S; Seafloor data northward from 64° North are from the International Bathymetric Chart of the Arctic Ocean (IBCAO) Version 1. Land data were primarily from 30-second gridded data collected from various sources by the (then) National Imagery and Mapping Agency.

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Elevation, Meters

9000
8000
7000
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
0
-1000
-2000
-3000
-4000
-5000
-6000
-7000
-8000
-9000
-10000
-11000