



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration



Aerosols are minute particles suspended in the atmosphere. When these particles are sufficiently large, we notice their presence as they scatter and absorb sunlight. The scattering of sunlight can reduce visibility (haze) and color the sky red at sunrise and sunset.

Aerosols (including those from volcanoes) scatter sunlight directly back into space, which may lower the Earth's temperature.

Aerosols enable chemical reactions that may lead to the destruction of stratospheric ozone.

Additional information is available over the World Wide Web at:

www.nasa.gov

[www.nasa.gov/centers/langley/science/
Science_Directorate.html](http://www.nasa.gov/centers/langley/science/Science_Directorate.html)

www-calipso.larc.nasa.gov/

www-sage3.larc.nasa.gov/

www-sage2.larc.nasa.gov/

www.nasa.gov

NB-2005-12-0013-LaRC