

Sky Color and Sky Visibility

Field Guide

 **NEVER look directly at the Sun!**

Task

Classify sky color and sky visibility, the overall sky conditions. These parameters describe the sky itself; not any clouds that may be present.

Color and visibility help us understand the impact of aerosols in our atmosphere, parameters that also affect energy transport.

- These observations are only possible during the day, not at dusk or night.
- Sky color cannot be observed if view of the sky is obscured or if the sky has no clear patches (you cannot observe color if you have 50% cloud cover or greater).

What You Need

- [Cloud Data Sheet](#)
- [Color and Visibility reference on Cloud ID Chart](#) or within the [GLOBE Observer app](#)
- [GLOBE Data Entry options](#)

In the Field

1. Complete the top section of your Data Sheet.
2. Look at the sky in every direction (above 14 degrees).
3. **Look Up** to observe sky color, reporting the shade that most closely matches your sky.
 - Turn your back to the Sun.
 - Observe the bluest part of your sky, which is usually around 45 degrees above the horizon.
4. **Look Across** to observe sky visibility.
 - Look at a landmark in the distance and estimate how visible it is under current sky conditions.
 - Try to use the same landmark every time.
5. Record sky color and sky visibility for the overall sky. This observation will not be taken on each level.

