



Two Ways for Scientists to Contribute to CMMAP Education Efforts



CMMAP Team Meeting, February 20 - 22, 2007, Kauai, HI

Randy Russell (rrussell@ucar.edu), Susan Q. Foster, Roberta M. Johnson, University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, CO

WINDOWS TO THE UNIVERSE

Overview

Windows to the Universe (W2U) is an immensely popular (~16 million annual visitors) science education web site hosted at UCAR/NCAR. The W2U web site is disseminating CMMAP educational resources to a large audience worldwide.

This poster describes two CMMAP education efforts that we invite CMMAP scientists to participate in.

- Postcards from the Field (or Lab)
- Interactive Animations (Virtual Labs and Microworlds - formerly called 'SEE-ME')

Postcards from the Field

Windows to the Universe created a new feature in February 2006 called "Postcards from the Field".

- Using an extremely simple web-based interface, researchers upload brief descriptions of their work along with relevant photos or other images (e.g. model results visualizations).
- These descriptions are placed on the web site using a postcard metaphor, and provide learners insights about the process of science and what scientists are like.

Interactive Animations

We are developing interactive animations (Virtual Labs and Microworlds) to help people explore the science related to CMMAP. We would like to recruit some of the CMMAP scientists to help us make sure we get the science and modeling right in these interactives.

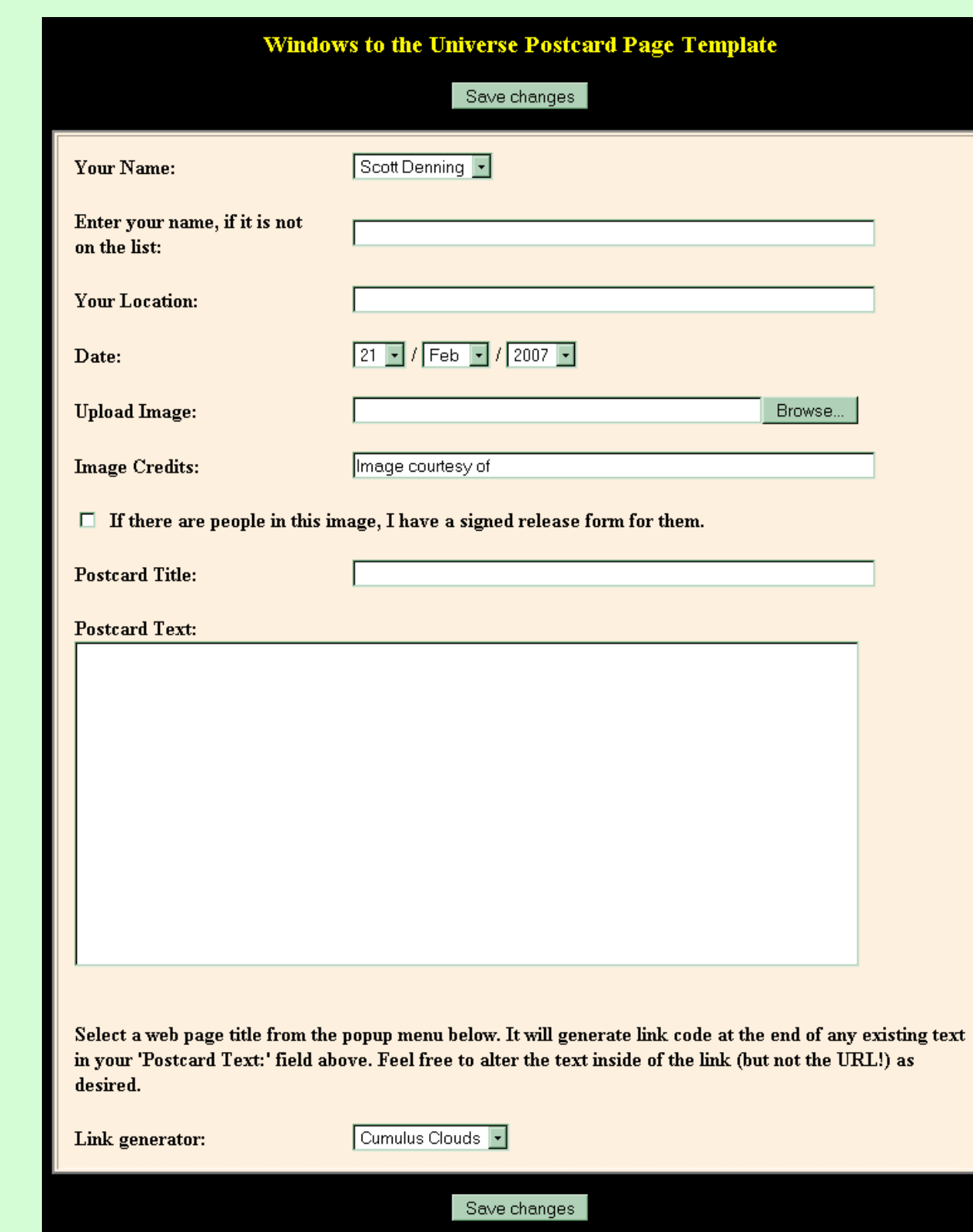
Postcards from the Field

An extremely user-friendly interface allows you to post reports ("postcards") describing your work onto the Windows to the Universe web site.

- minimal time and effort required on your part
- students get a flavor of what careers in science involve
- students get a taste of the process of science (not just the results)



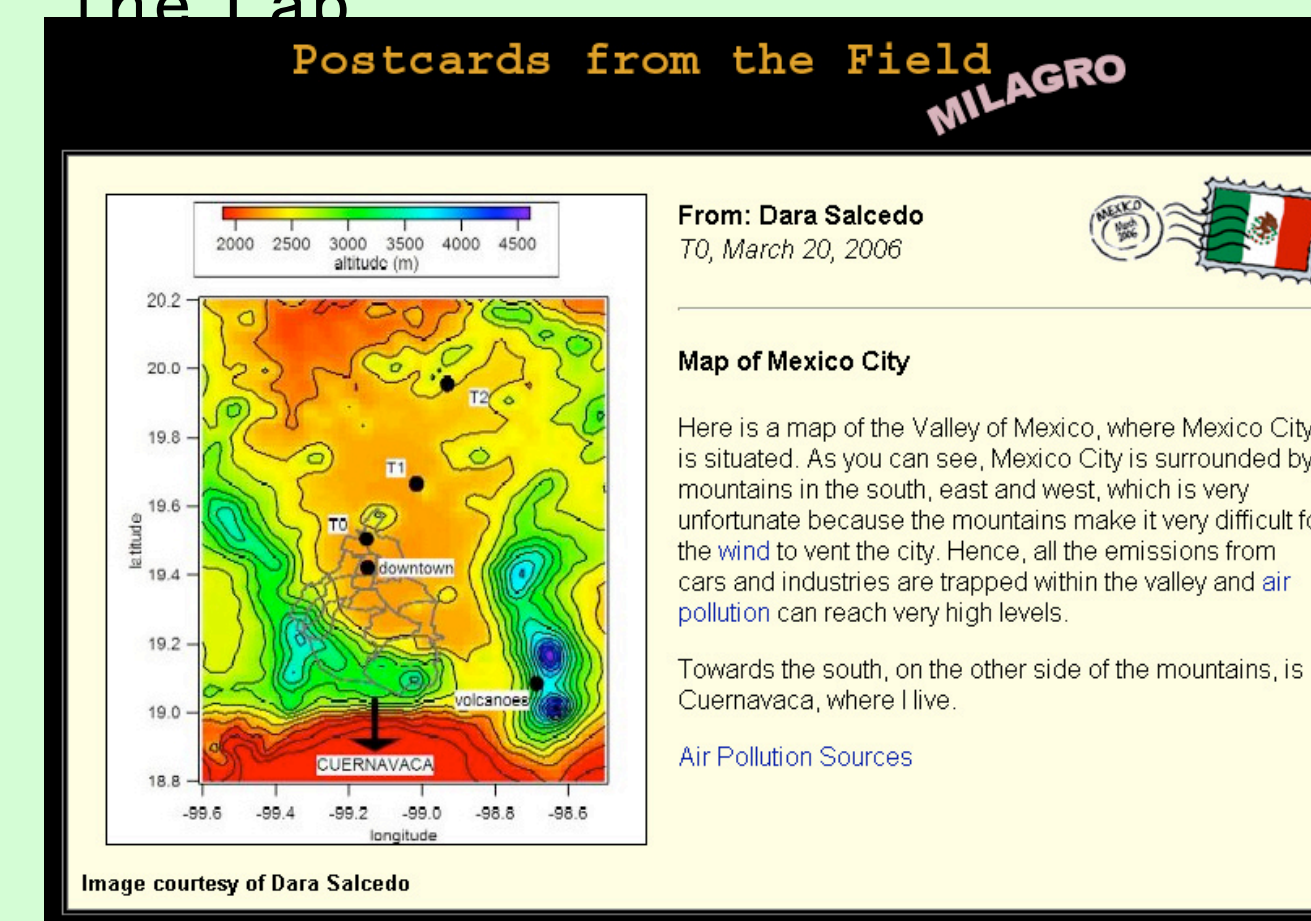
Author's Interface



Sample Postcard

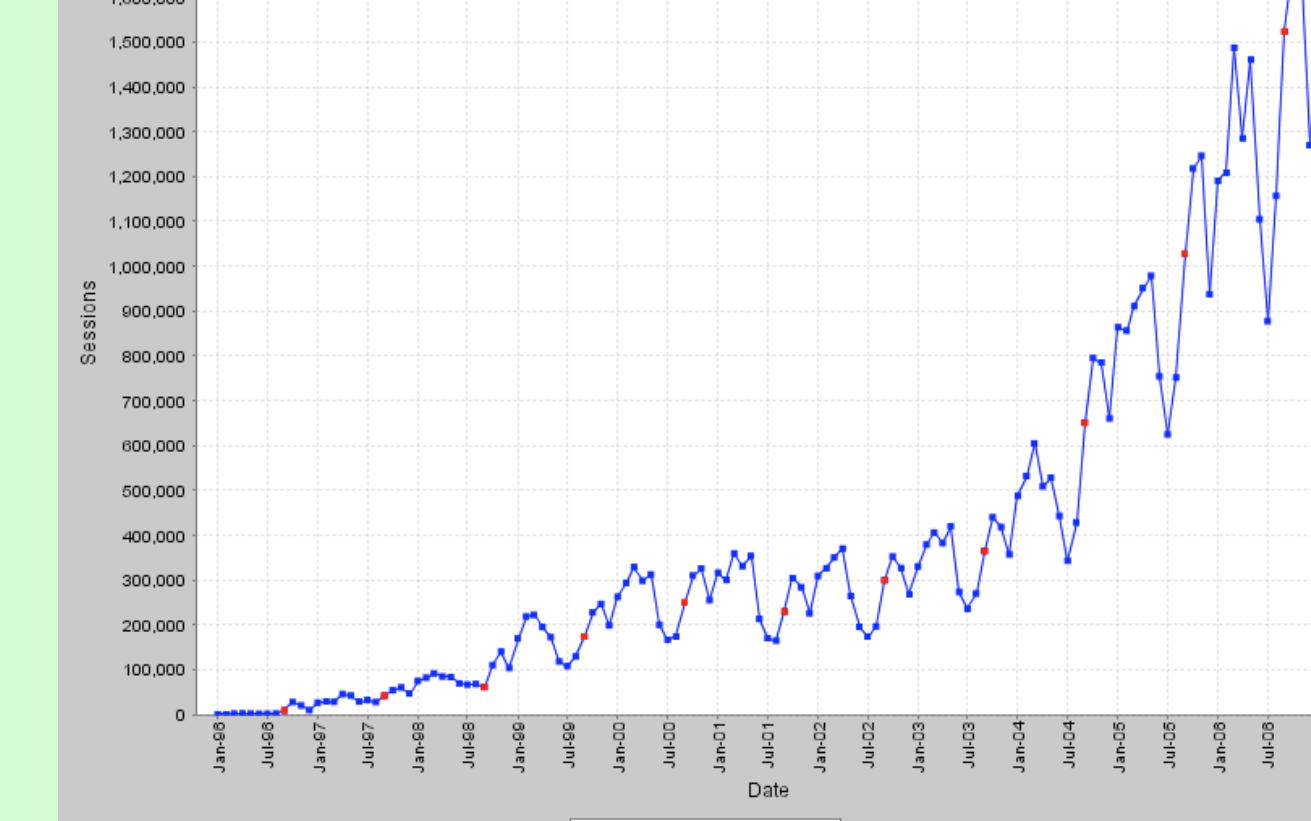


Postcards can include data visualization images as well as photos of field work. We expect to expand "Postcards from the Field" to also include "Postcards from the Lab".



Windows to the Universe reaches a vast, world-wide audience... many people will see your postcards! In 2006:

- more than 133 million page views
- almost 16 million user sessions
- nearly 14 million "visitors" (unique IPs)

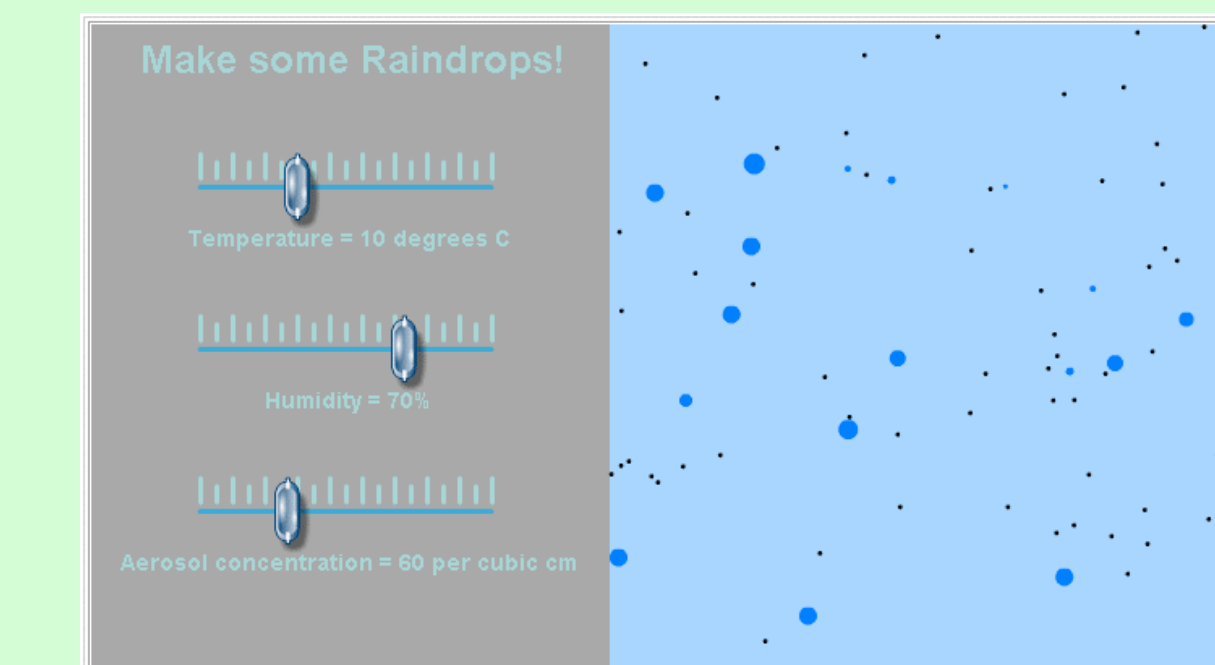


Interactive Animations (Virtual Labs and Microworlds)

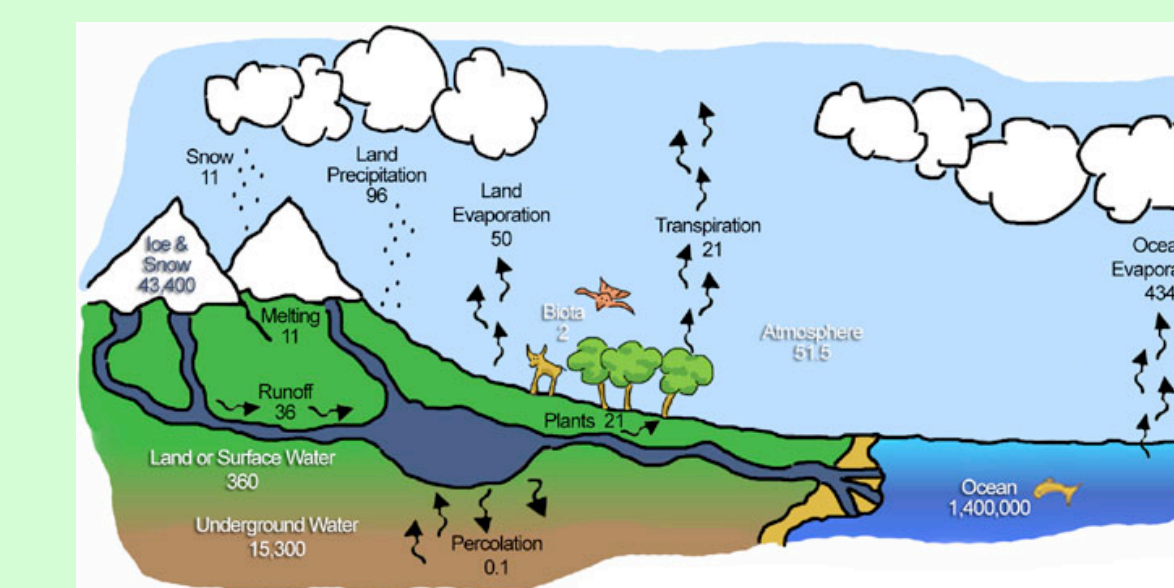
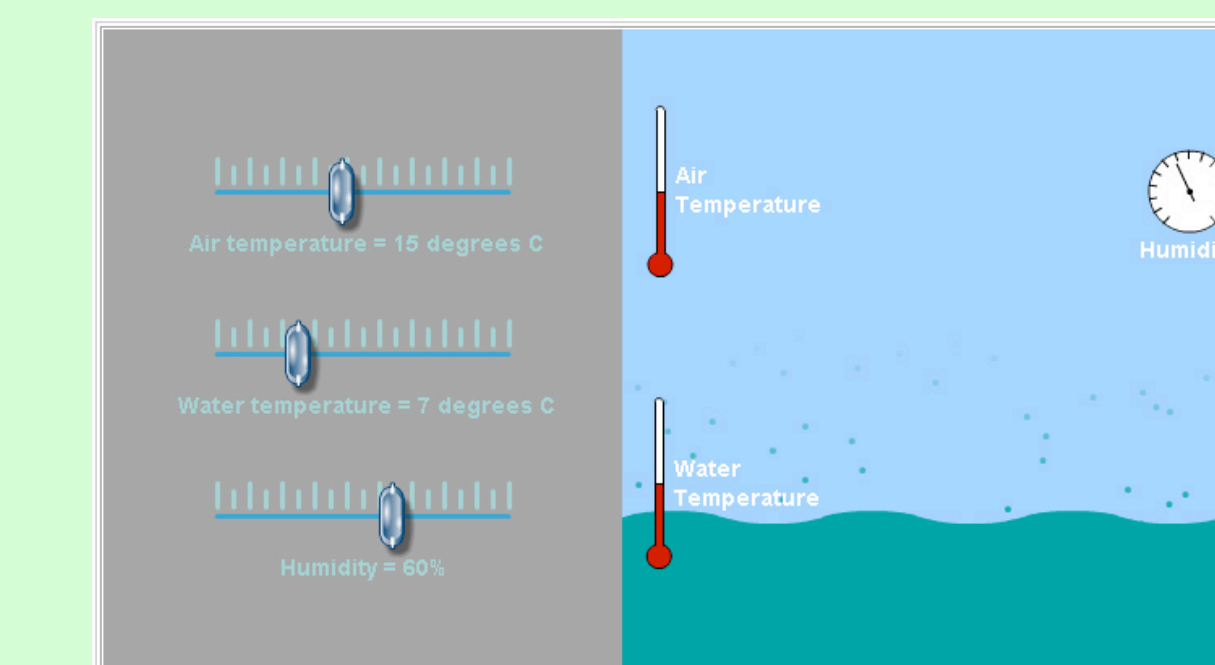
We are developing interactive simulations (virtual labs and microworlds) that will allow learners to explore and experiment with aspects of the science of CMMAP (raindrop and snowflake formation, evaporation rate, the water cycle, and so on).

We would like to recruit a few scientists to advise us and review these interactives to make sure we get the science (in effect, our simplified models of the processes involved) right. Sample screenshots:

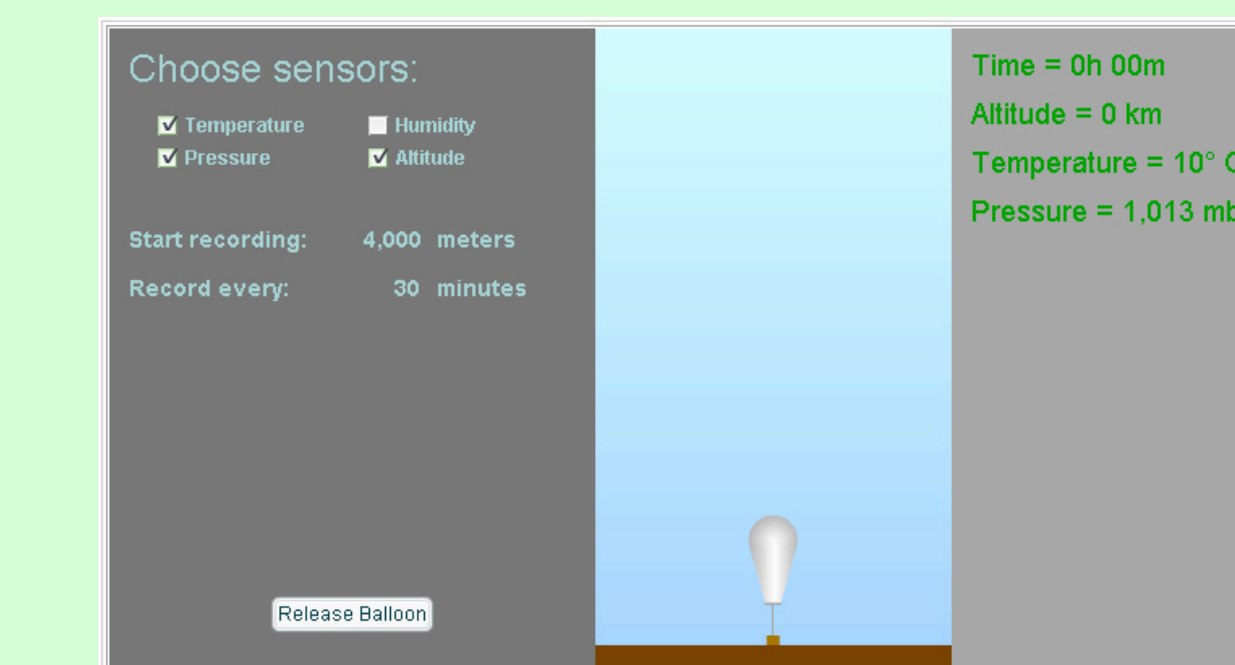
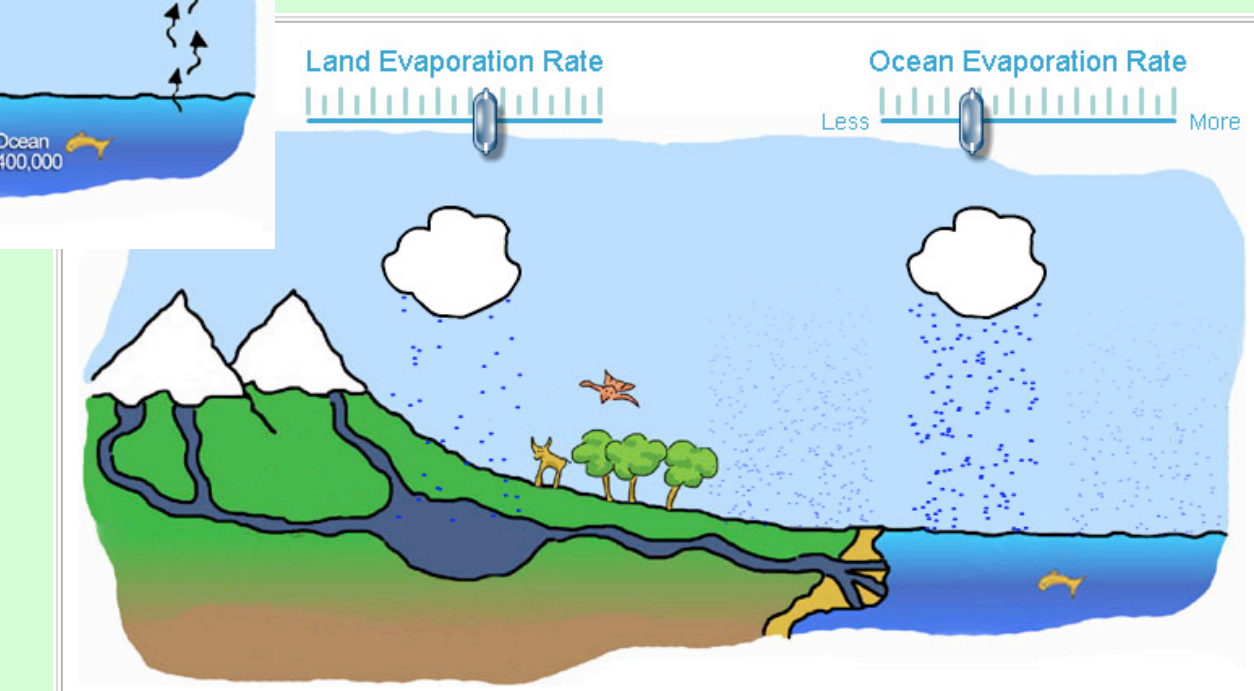
How do raindrops form?



Evaporation rate virtual lab



Static Diagram vs. Interactive Animation



Launch a balloon...

...to explore Earth's atmosphere!

