**Evaluating Data Visualizations: A Template for Students**

Students, these questions to guide your evaluation.

**Content/Concept goal:**

What idea(s) in Earth science do you think this visualization is trying to help you understand?

**Accuracy:**

Which person or agency created this visualization? What is the underlying data, and how was it collected and processed to create this visualization?

**Background knowledge:**

What content knowledge is needed to understand this visualization? Do you have the background to understand this visualization effectively? What else do you think you need to know to fully understand what the visualization is trying to show?

**Embedded conventions:**

What visual conventions does this visualization use that you might not understand or might be missing?

* *Scale*: Is the scale clearly indicated? Is there any exaggeration of scale? For example, is the vertical dimension exaggerated with respect to the horizontal dimension?
* *Legend and labels*: Are they present, clear, and adequate?
* *Projection*: Are there aspects of the projection (such as distortion of area) that need to be explained?
* *Color*: Is it clear what the colors in the visualization represent? Are the colors misleading or confusing?
* *Time and date*: Is the time and date information provided adequate to understand the visualization?

**The next step:**

What additional information would you add to this visualization to ensure it communicates the Earth science content/concept it set out to do?