1
00:00:02,150 --> 00:00:12,490
[music]

2
00:00:12,510 --> 00:00:17,380
A series of Landsat satellites have surveyed the Earth's surface since 1972.

3
00:00:17,400 --> 00:00:22,120
In that time, Landsat data have become a vital reference worldwide,

4
00:00:22,140 --> 00:00:27,230
used for understanding scientific issues related to land use and natural resources.

5
00:00:28,100 --> 00:00:31,900
However, some Landsat images are simply striking to look at,

6
00:00:31,920 --> 00:00:37,580
presenting spectacular views of mountains and valleys, forests and farms.

7
00:00:37,600 --> 00:00:41,900
To celebrate the 40th anniversary of Landsat, the U.S. Geological Survey

8
00:00:41,920 --> 00:00:48,130
and NASA asked for your help in selecting the top five Earth As Art images.

9
00:00:49,950 --> 00:00:53,030
Number Five – Lake Eyre

10
00:00:53,050 --> 00:00:57,680
Patches of shallow water in Australia's Lake Eyre resemble a skull.

11
00:00:57,700 --> 00:01:02,180
This ephemeral feature occurs in a flat, often parched landscape.

12
00:01:02,200 --> 00:01:06,260
Lake Eyre is Australia's largest lake – when it's full.

13
00:01:06,280 --> 00:01:10,940

However, in the last 150 years, Lake Eyre has only been full three times.

14
00:01:11,700 --> 00:01:14,930
Number Four – Algerian Abstract

15
00:01:14,950 --> 00:01:18,330
What looks like pale yellow streaks of paint

16
00:01:18,350 --> 00:01:22,480
slashing through a mosaic of mottled colors are ridges of wind-blown sand

17
00:01:22,500 --> 00:01:28,990
that make up a sea of sand extending from Algeria into Mauritania, in northwestern Africa.

18
00:01:29,010 --> 00:01:32,980
In this area of ever-shifting sand, one of several in the Sahara,

19
00:01:33,000 --> 00:01:36,480
individual dunes often surpass 500 meters –

20
00:01:36,500 --> 00:01:39,860
nearly a third of a mile – in both width and height.

21
00:01:39,880 --> 00:01:46,580
The light blue areas in the image are salt crusts left behind from the evaporation of the valley's water.

22
00:01:48,600 --> 00:01:52,410
Number Three – Meandering Mississippi

23
00:01:52,430 --> 00:01:56,580
Small blocky shapes of towns, fields, and pastures

24
00:01:56,600 --> 00:02:00,740
surround the graceful swirls and whorls of the Mississippi River.

25
00:02:00,760 --> 00:02:04,850
Numerous oxbow lakes and cutoffs run along the

26
00:02:04,870 --> 00:02:06,900
meandering river south of Memphis, Tennessee,

27
00:02:06,920 --> 00:02:09,980
on the border between Arkansas and Mississippi.

28
00:02:11,080 --> 00:02:16,140
The "Mighty Mississippi" is the largest river system in North America.

29
00:02:17,800 --> 00:02:21,190
Number Two – Yukon Delta

30
00:02:21,210 --> 00:02:25,240
Beginning in British Columbia and flowing through Yukon, in Canada,

31
00:02:25,260 --> 00:02:29,410
the Yukon River crosses Alaska before emptying into the Bering Sea.

32
00:02:29,430 --> 00:02:33,090
Countless lakes, sloughs, and ponds

33
00:02:33,110 --> 00:02:35,770
are scattered throughout this scene of the Yukon Delta.

34
00:02:35,790 --> 00:02:41,950
The sinuous, branching waterways resemble blood vessels reaching out to enclose an organ.

35
00:02:41,970 --> 00:02:46,130
It is one of the largest river deltas in the world,

36
00:02:46,150 --> 00:02:50,310
and is protected as part of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

37
00:02:51,710 --> 00:02:55,480
Number One – Van Gogh From Space

38
00:02:55,500 --> 00:02:58,670

In the style of Van Gogh's painting "Starry Night,"

39
00:02:58,690 --> 00:03:03,540
massive congregatinos of greenish phytoplankton swirl in the dark water around Gotland,

40
00:03:03,560 --> 00:03:07,020
a Swedish Island in the Baltic Sea.

41
00:03:07,040 --> 00:03:13,160
Phytoplankton are microscopic marine plants that form the first link in nearly all ocean food chains.

42
00:03:13,180 --> 00:03:18,470
Population explosions, or blooms of phytoplankton, like the one shown here,

43
00:03:18,490 --> 00:03:22,680
occur when deep currents bring nutrients up to sunlit surface waters,