

Landsat Imagery of the Eastern Shore

(displayed with different band combinations)

Satellite images have different layers of data which are referred to as bands. Each band is sensitive to a particular portion of the electromagnetic spectrum, which includes the visible wavelengths red, green, and blue that our eyes can see. Satellites can also see wavelengths that our eyes cannot. Wavelengths in the near infrared, mid-infrared, and thermal infrared portions of the spectrum are captured by Landsat satellites. To view an image, three bands in the image are displayed as red, green, and blue (RGB). Below are three common band combinations used to display Landsat satellite data, which has 7 or 8 bands depending on the sensor, TM or ETM+.



This band combination (321) is referred to as 'True Color' because the red band is displayed as red, the green band is displayed as green, and the blue band is displayed as blue.

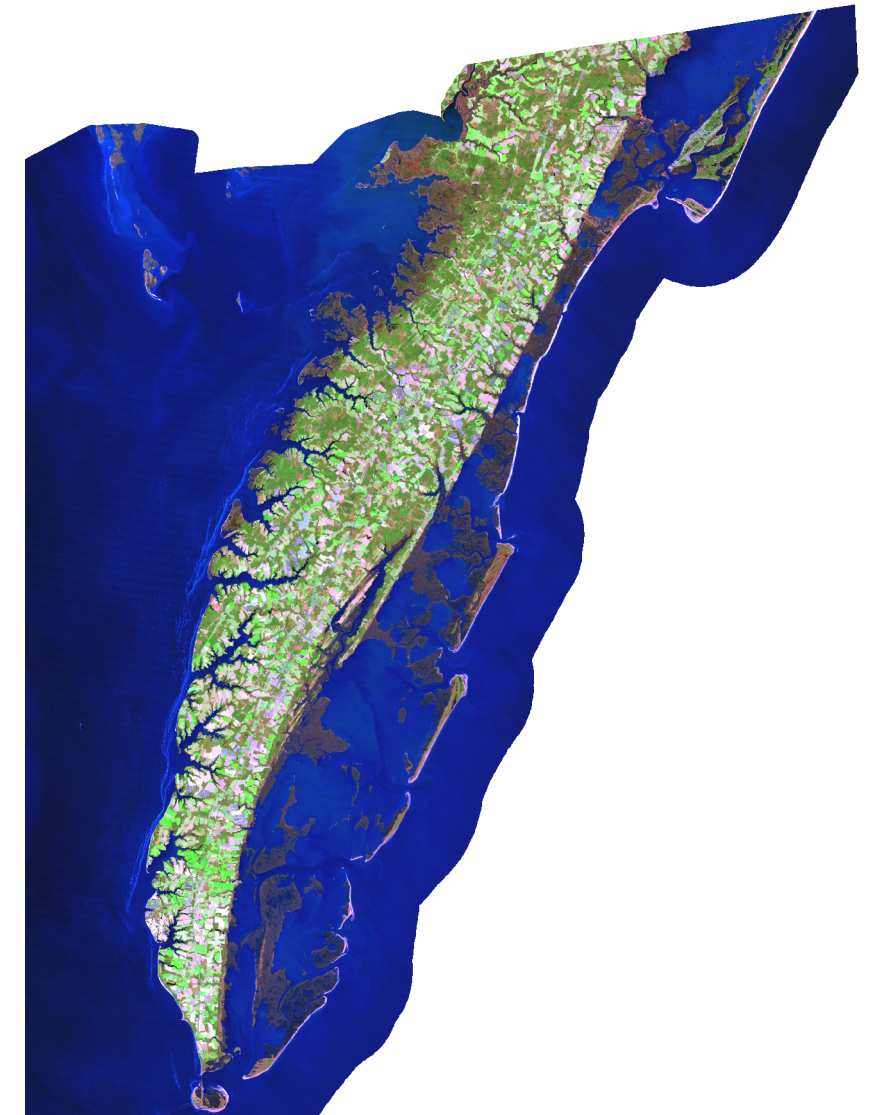
0 5 10 20 30 40 Miles

Image Date: April 5, 2004

Related SOLs: ES. 3b.



This band combination (432) is similar to color-infrared aerial photography where the near infrared band is displayed as red, the red band is displayed as green, and the green band is displayed as blue.



This band combination (542) has mid-infrared band 5 displayed as red, the near infrared band displayed as green, and the green band displayed as blue.