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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,  
of Clark University,  
tells:

WHY THE SKY IS BLUE

The blue color of the sky has been ascribed to the actual color of the air, or to the selective scattering of the shorter rays of the spectrum by extremely minute dust particles or the molecules of the gases that compose the atmosphere. As proofs of this explanation are cited the change from a bluish sun and dark, though blue, sky observed from great heights, to a yellowish sun and bright blue sky seen from low elevations. This is because in passing through the atmosphere, the longer wave lengths, yellow and red, are least disturbed and travel straightest. The short wave-length, blue and violet rays, however, are easily interfered with and turned aside by minute particles. The more air the sun's rays penetrate, as when the sun is low, the smaller the proportion of blue light left and, in consequence, the yellower or redder the sun appears. The sky, however, does not necessarily look any bluer with a low sun and it may look greenish white, for the considerable reflection of greens and yellows and also of total sunlight by the larger particles in the atmosphere introduces so much extra light that even the greater amount of scattered blue may form a smaller proportion of the total light from the sky.

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(Tomorrow: "Lows" Cooler Than "Highs" in Summer)

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