Pollution outflow from Spring 2003 fires in Siberia. In the Spring of 2003 there were a large numbers of fires in Siberia, especially in the Lake Baikal region. The left image shows the number of fires detected during the month of May 2003. These fires produced large amounts of carbon monoxide gas (right). This pollutant can last for over a month. The long lifetime allows the gas to cross the Pacific Ocean and reduce air quality over North America before continuing on around the globe. (Data from the MODIS instrument (left image) and MOPITT instrument (right image) on the Terra satellite.)