

Term	Description
Function	On-the-fly, nonpermanent processing applied to one or more rasters as they are accessed.
Mosaic/ Mosaicked image	An image composed of multiple images fused together. A mosaic can be a static product, such as a map cache created from a single raster dataset, or a dynamic image created using a mosaic dataset.
Mosaic dataset	A collection of raster datasets (images) stored as a catalog and viewed as a mosaicked image that is dynamic. The properties of the original imagery are maintained, and overlapping imagery can be ordered as required.
Mosaic layer	A layer that references a mosaic dataset. It can be viewed in ArcMap as a group layer that consists of boundary, footprint, and image layers. It can also be used by geoprocessing tools to access pixel data.
Mosaic method	A rule for ordering overlapping rasters when viewing the mosaicked image so that the optimum image is displayed on top.
Overviews	Reduced-resolution datasets generated to improve the speed at which the mosaic is displayed.
Pyramid	A set of reduced-resolution rasters associated with a raster dataset that enables faster display of the raster at smaller scales.
Raster catalog	A collection of raster datasets defined in a table. Each record in the table represents an individual raster dataset in the catalog. A managed raster catalog can be used to store imagery directly in a database.
Raster dataset	Any valid raster format organized into one or more bands. Each band consists of a matrix or array of equally spaced cells (pixels) arranged in rows and columns. Each pixel in the raster dataset has a value. Raster datasets have associated properties, such as spatial reference, as well as metadata.
Raster footprint	Detailed extent of a raster dataset. Imagery outside the footprint is clipped from the viewed image.
Raster layer	A layer that references a raster dataset and may define additional processing or functions to be applied to the image.
Raster type	Identifies how to import detailed mosaic dataset properties and metadata, such as georeferencing, acquisition date, and sensor type, along with a raster format.

A brief glossary of mosaic dataset terms