cloud catcher

cirrus

AltoStratus

cirrocumulus

Stratus

cut out window along dotted lines

Stratocumulus

cumulus

nimbostratus

comulonibus

cirrostratus

cirrocumulus

cirrus

comulonibus

Stratus

AltoStratus

nimbostratus

cirrostratus

stratocumulus

cumulus

Directions

1. Cut out cloud catcher and cloud photos along dotted lines.
2. Cut out cloud catcher window along dotted lines.
3. Match up cloud photos by type of cloud labeled on the cloud catcher and paste pieces.
4. Glue a popsicle stick to the bottom center of the cloud catcher. This will be and handle.
5. Hold cloud catcher up to the sky and frame a cloud(s) in the window. Use the cloud ID photos around the frame to identify the cloud(s).

Cloud types

High clouds

cirrus: Most common of the high clouds. They are composed of ice and are thin, wispy clouds blown in high winds into long streamers. They predict fair to pleasant weather.

cirrocumulus: Small, rounded, white puffs that appear in long rows. The small ripples sometimes resemble the scales of a fish. Usually, they indicate fair, but cold weather. Can also indicate an approaching hurricane.

cirrostratus: Thin, sheet-like, high clouds that often cover the entire sky. They are so thin that the sun or moon can be seen through them. Usually they appear 12-24 hours before a rainstorm.

Mid-level clouds

Altocumulus: White or grey puffy clouds. They are patchy with spaces between them. They may appear to be lined up in rows.

Altostratus: Grey or bluish-grey uniform looking clouds that cover much or most of the sky.

Low-level clouds

Stratocumulus: Low puffy grey clouds. Most form in rows with blue sky visable between them. Rain rarely occurs with stratocumulus clouds.
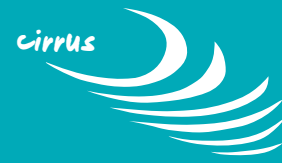
cumulus: White, puffy, clouds that look like pieces of floating cotton. The base of each cloud is flat and the top has rounded towers.

Stratus: These clouds form a flat, thin, uniform cloud layer. They usually do not contain enough water to rain or snow. Stratus clouds that reach the ground are called fog.

Nimbostratus: These clouds form a dark, wet-looking cloudy layer that is associated with continuously falling rain.

comulonibus: These clouds are thunderstorm clouds. High winds can flatten the top of the cloud into an anvil-like shape. They are often associated with heavy rain, snow, hail, and or lightening. The anvil usually points in the direction the storm is heading.

Reading the clouds

cirrus

cirrocumulus

cirrostratus

20,000 feet (6,000 meters)

Altostratus

cumulonimbus

Altostratus

6,00 FEET (2,000 METERS)

Stratocumulus

Stratus

cumulus

Nimbostratus