

How Clouds Form

- Watch Mystery science on clouds
- Create a cloud in a jar (hot water, ice, hairspray)
- Complete cloud worksheet

[The Making of a Cloud](#)

Take notes
during each
video

Cloud Types

[How clouds get their name](#)

[Weather 101: cloud types](#)

Watch
videos
and take
notes

What are clouds?

- A cloud is made up of tiny water droplets and/or ice crystals, a snowflake is a collection of many ice crystals, and rain is just liquid water.

Cloud Names

- Names of specific types of clouds are created by combining the name of the cloud's shape with the name of the cloud's height.

Clouds

There are 3 main types of clouds:

- Cumulus or fluffy clouds
- Stratus or layered clouds
- Cirrus or thin feathery clouds



Cumulus

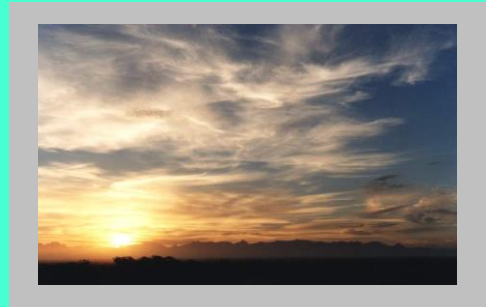


Stratus



Cirrus

Cirrus

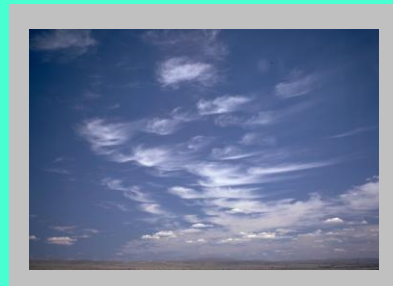


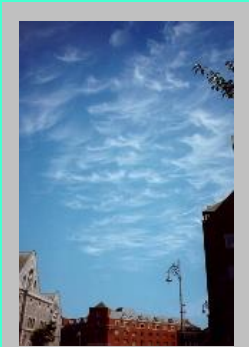
Cirrus

- The word *cirrus* comes from a Latin word and means a tuft or curl of hair. Cirrus clouds are very wispy and feathery looking.
- High altitude clouds

Cirrus

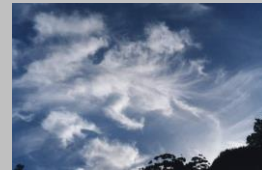
- The long stringy cirrus clouds are called "mares' tails."





Cirrus Clouds

- **Cirrus generally occur in fair weather and point in the direction of air movement at their elevation.**



Cirrus Clouds



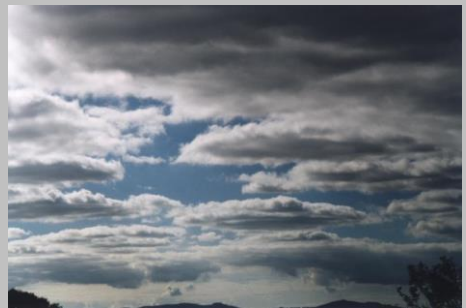
Stratus Clouds

- Low altitude clouds
- made of water droplets
- when temperatures are cold enough, these clouds may also contain ice particles and snow.

Stratus Clouds



Stratus Clouds



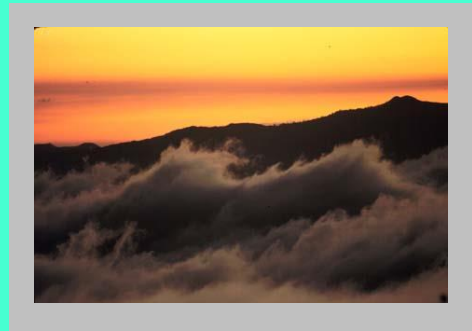
Stratus

The word *stratus* comes from the Latin word that means "to spread out." Stratus clouds are horizontal, layered clouds that stretch out across the sky like a blanket.



Stratus Clouds

- Stratus Clouds stretch across the sky in low, large flat layers. They resemble fog, but they do not reach the ground. They often produce mist or drizzle.



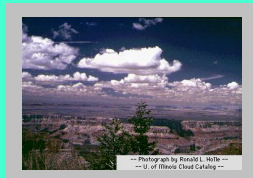


Vertically Developed Cumulus Clouds

- Fair weather cumulus have the appearance of floating cotton and have a lifetime of 5-40 minutes. The word *cumulus* comes from the Latin word for a heap or a pile. Cumulus clouds are puffy in appearance. They look like large cotton balls.

Cumulus Clouds

- Harmless fair weather cumulus clouds can later develop into towering cumulonimbus clouds associated with powerful thunderstorms.



Cumulus

- The clouds that produce heavy thunderstorms in summer are a form of cumulus clouds called cumulonimbus. Cumulonimbus clouds may extend upward for hundreds of meters.

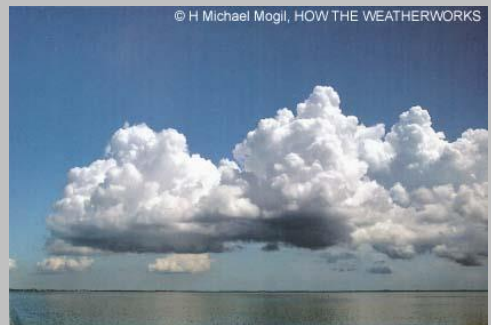
Fair Weather Cumulus

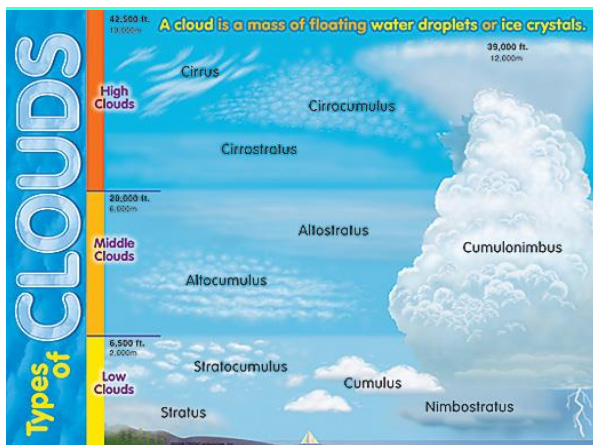


Cumulonimbus



Cumulonimbus





Heights of clouds

- Cirro = high altitude (above 6,000 meters)
 - Cirrostratus
 - Cirrocumulus
 - Cirrus
- Alto = medium altitude (between 2,000 meters – 6,000 meters)
 - Alto cumulus
 - Altostratus
- Stratus = low altitude (below 2,000 meters)
 - Stratocumulus
 - Stratus
 - Nimbostratus

