

Cloud Observations

Focus

Clouds are water. Either small liquid water drops or tiny pieces of ice. Meteorologists rank clouds according to their height, and whether or not they are flat or puffy. They will only produce rain if

Materials

- Cloud chart
- Camera
- Diary
- Magazine pictures etc

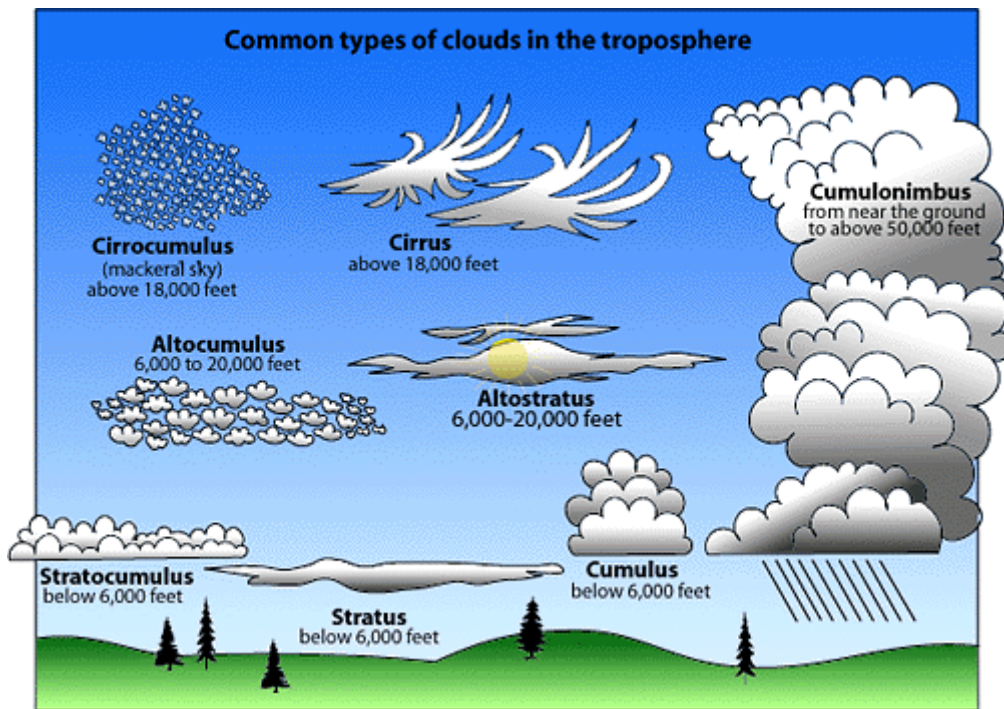
Procedure

- Take students for an outing in the playground. If possible let them lie on the grass. Explain that sometimes clouds look like an animal or a person
- Ask students to draw a cloud picture
- Circle the cloud on this page that looks the most like the clouds you see.
- Mark with an X the cloud picture that you think holds the most water.
- Start a diary. Over a period of 4 weeks, document the clouds in the sky.
- Identify different cloud shapes.
- Sketch clouds and take pictures
- Cut out magazine pictures and place on a chart.

Resources

- Worksheet over page with:
 - Cloud chart
 - Template for recording observations
- Cloud types – FS p.6
- Online resources - Useful web addresses – Appendix 6

Cloud chart



Height	Flat	Puffy
Low	Stratus	Cumulus
Medium	Altostratus	Altopcumulus
High	Cirrostratus	Cirrocumulus
Tall	Cumulonimbus (or Thunderstorm)	
Nimbus means rain cloud		

Clouds in the sky _____ (month)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday

Use the abbreviations below:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| S – stratus | C – cumulus |
| AS – alto stratus | AC – Alto cumulus |
| CS – Cirrostratus | CC – Cirrocumulus |
| CB – Cumulonimbus (Thunderstorm) | |