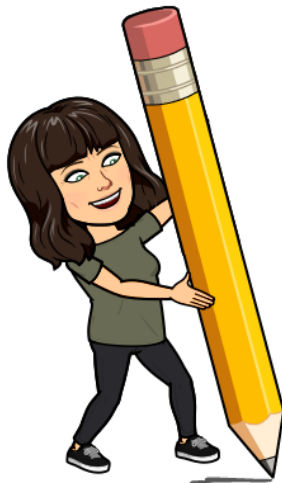


PP

Earth and Space Science

Week 2



Mrs Walker

Clouds, clouds everywhere!

Read through the posters about the different types of clouds.

Print out the cloud identifier and cut out the middle section. Go outside and view the clouds through the viewer. *What clouds can you see? Do you think it might rain? Do you think we might have a thunderstorm?*



Stratus Clouds

Stratus clouds are grey in colour and look like blankets in the sky.

They are low-level clouds and are essentially above-ground fog.

Stratus clouds form when a mass of warm air is pushed up over a mass of cooler air or a mountain. On clear days, when the earth cools quickly, a stratus cloud or fog forms closer to the ground.

The word stratus means 'layer'.

Cirrus Clouds

Cirrus clouds are thin and wispy and look like stretched cotton. You can see through them.

They are high-level clouds that are made of ice crystals.

Cirrus clouds usually mean nice weather, however, they can occur just before a change of weather.

When the ends of cirrus clouds are curled, this is a sign that the wind is going to change directions. The word cirrus means 'curl of hair'.

Cumulus Clouds

Cumulus clouds are puffy and look like cotton wool balls. They are flat on the bottom.

They are low-level clouds and usually occur in fair weather, although they may lead to storms.

Cumulus clouds form when large bubbles of warm air rise rapidly. The word cumulus means 'hump'.

Nimbus Clouds



Nimbus clouds are darker than other clouds and often mean a thunderstorm is brewing.

The word 'nimbus' means a cloud that already has rain or snow falling. Nimbus is often added to other cloud names.

Nimbostratus is also used, which means a stratus cloud with rain.

Cloud Identifier

HIGH LEVEL



cirrus

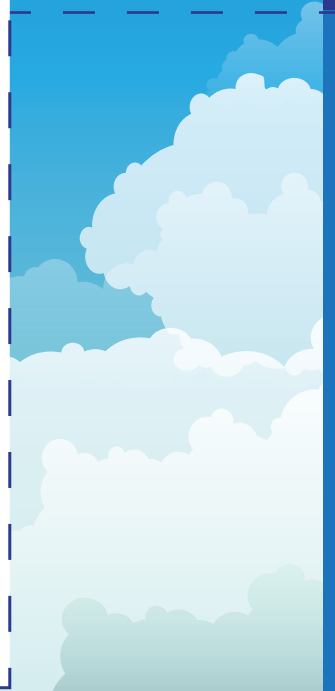


cirrocumulus

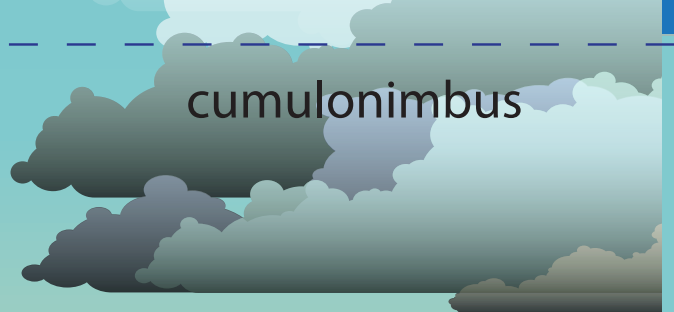


MID LEVEL

altostratus



cumulonimbus



stratocumulus



cumulus



stratus



nimbus



LOW LEVEL