
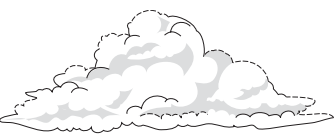
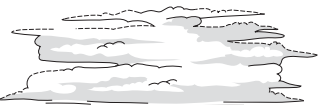


Classifying Clouds, Page 1



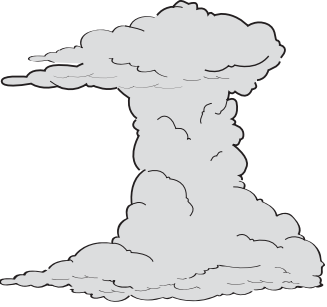

Three Main Types

Cloud Type	Shape/Description	Altitude	Weather Prediction
Cirrus 	High, feathery, made of ice crystals; sometimes called "mares' tails"	High-level; more than 6,000 m (about 20,000 ft) above Earth's surface	Usually means fair weather on the day observed. May appear a day or two before a change in the weather.
Cumulus 	Heaped, puffy, white (resembles cauliflower), with flat bottom	Mid-level; more than 2,000–6,000 m (about 6,500–20,000 ft) above Earth's surface	"Fair-weather" clouds; weather will probably stay warm and dry
Stratus 	Flat, gray, layered clouds that cover the whole sky Fog is a stratus cloud that forms on the ground.	Low-level; Less than 2,000 m (about 6,500 ft) above Earth's surface	Rain or drizzle is likely.

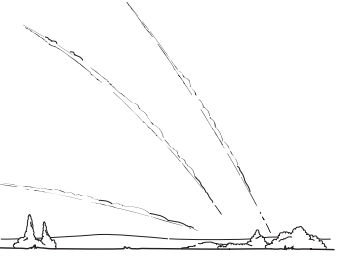
Classifying Clouds, Page 2



Storm Clouds

Cloud Type	Shape/Description	Altitude	Weather Prediction
Cumulonimbus 	Huge, vertical, cumulus cloud with a dark lower portion that may produce hail	A tall cloud that can stretch from 2,000–6,000 m (about 6,500–20,000 ft) or more above Earth's surface	Produces thunderstorms; also called "thunderheads"
Nimbostratus 	Low, gray, stratus clouds; can block out the sun, darkening the sky	Low-level; less than 2,000 m (about 6,500 ft) above Earth's surface	Brings rain or snow

Manufactured Clouds

Airplane Contrails 	High-altitude, white streaks created by jets; these cirrus-like clouds form when water vapor from a plane's exhaust freezes into ice crystals	6,000–12,200 m (about 20,000–40,000 ft) above Earth's surface	If they vanish quickly, the weather may be good. When they linger, a storm may be coming.
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