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How to Use This Resource

This resource can be used with multiple grades.



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Rainfall Chart

This chart keeps track of 24-hour rainfall totals.

We have also included our cloud viewer project, should you want to help students identify the clouds that bring rain.

Choose a time every day to check and record the rainfall amounts consistently. If you have breakfast at the same time each day, that might be a great time to check your gauge. Just be sure that your readings are as close to 24 hours apart as possible so your records will be accurate.

After collecting your rainfall amounts, you might want to graph them daily, weekly, or monthly.

Place your rain gauge in an open area away from trees and structures that may cause inaccurate rainfall readings.

CLOUD VIEWER

High-level

Clouds



altocumulus



Mid-level

Clouds



cumulus



cirrus



cirrocumulus



cirrostratus

Print out both pages on cardstock. Cut out this center section of each side of the cloud viewer. Use tape to attach a large craft stick onto the back side of one of the cutouts. Place glue on the non-printed side of each cutout, and glue the two halves of the viewer together. Hold the side with the clouds toward you and look at the sky through the center.



altostratus



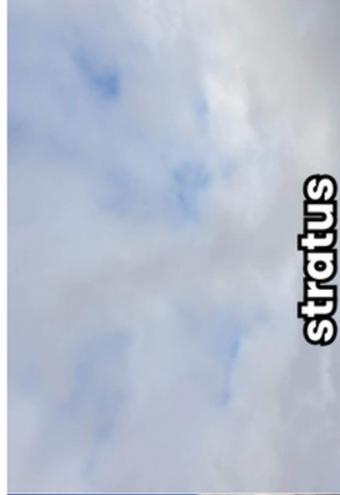
nimbostratus



stratocumulus



cumulonimbus



stratus

Low-level Clouds



High-level Clouds ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

High-level Clouds start at about 20,000 feet above the earth's surface. Since it is so cold that high, these clouds are mostly made of tiny ice crystals. These clouds look thin and wispy and are named with the prefix "cirro." These clouds mean the weather will be nice, but they can also tell us that a change in the weather is coming.



Mid-level Clouds

These clouds sit between 6,500 and 20,000 feet about the earth's surface. They're usually made of water droplets, but sometimes they have ice crystals too.

Print out both pages on cardstock. Cut out this center section of each side of the cloud viewer. Use tape to attach a large craft stick onto the back side of one of the cutouts. Place glue on the non-printed side of each cutout, and glue the two halves of the viewer together. Hold the side with the clouds toward you and look at the sky through the center.



The names of mid-level clouds start with "alto-" Altostratus clouds can look like a gray blanket. Altocumulus clouds look like cotton balls stuck together. They often mean good weather, but they can grow into rain clouds.



Low-level Clouds

Low-level Clouds are the closest to the earth's surface. They're mostly made of water droplets, and they're the ones that bring us rain and snow. One type is "stratus clouds," which look like a gray layer covering the sky. When you see stratus clouds, it might be a gloomy day, but it usually doesn't rain much. Another type is "cumulus clouds," which are big and fluffy, like cotton candy. They often mean good weather, but they can grow into rain clouds.

