

CLOUDS

Clouds come in many shapes and sizes, and each has its own characteristics! Nature makes an endless supply of different cloud combinations with four basic cloud types: cumulus, stratus, cirrus, and nimbus. What type of clouds do you see? Make a weather prediction today and check later today or tomorrow to see if your prediction was correct. Try painting or drawing the clouds you see!



Cirrus: high-altitude, wispy clouds, which indicate fair weather.



Cirrocumulus: Clouds that look like ripples of water on the surface of a lake and are a sign of good weather.



Cumulus: Large, white, fluffy clouds, which indicate fair weather when they are widely separated. If they are large with numerous heads, they can bring intense showers.



Nimbostratus: Low blankets of cloud, which indicate rain or snow.



Stratocumulus: A lumpy mass of clouds covering the entire sky, which may produce light rain.



Cumulonimbus: Low clouds with a characteristic flat, anvil-like top. They often bring strong winds, thunder, lightning and even hail.



← **Stratus:** A low, fog-like layer of clouds, which may produce drizzle.