



### 1. Cirrus



### 2. Cirrocumulus



### 3. Cirrostratus

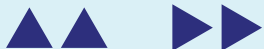


### High Level Clouds

(1, 2, 3) are white and thin-looking. At sunrise or sunset, they can be very colorful. They are most often made of ice crystals.



### 4. Altocumulus



### Mid Level Clouds

(4, 5, 6) are made mostly of water droplets. When temperatures are very low, the water droplets can turn to ice crystals.

### How are clouds classified?

Scientists classify clouds by their height (low, medium, or high), and by whether they are flat (stratus), puffy (cumulus), rain-filled (nimbus), or a combination of these characteristics.

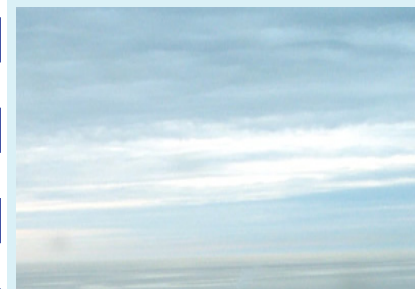
### How do I make the NCAR Cloud Viewer?

Cut along the dashed line in the center of the page. Look through the opening in the Viewer at the sky above you. What types of clouds do you see today? Use the CLOUD VIEWER to help you classify the clouds outside. Use the SKY VIEWER to find the sky's colors. Why isn't the sky just one color? Why does it vary?



Saucer-shaped Lenticular clouds are common in mountainous regions of the world.

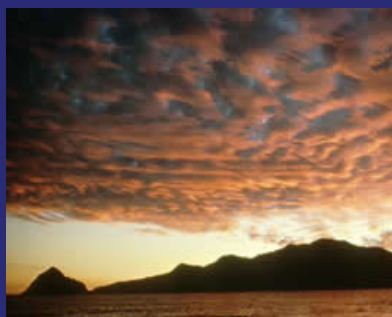
### 5. Altostratus



### 6. Nimbostratus



### 7. Cumulus



### 8. Stratocumulus

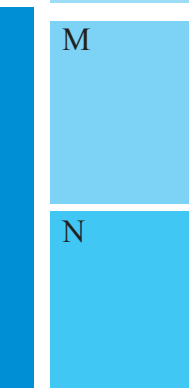
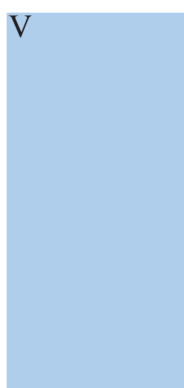
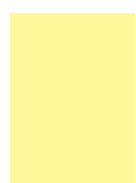
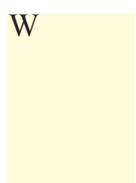
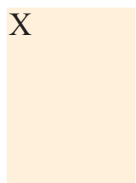
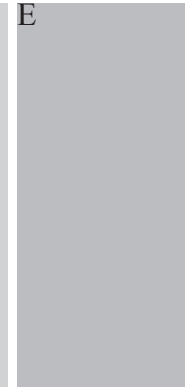
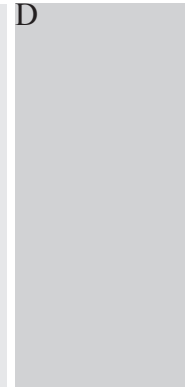
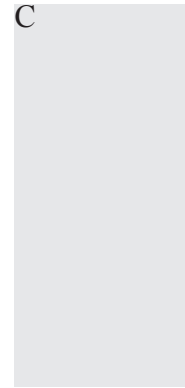
Low Level Clouds (7, 8, 9, 10) are made of water droplets. Cumulonimbus clouds (9) can rise rapidly causing water droplets to turn to ice.



### 9. Cumulonimbus



### 10. Stratus



## Learn more about clouds and our atmosphere at these Web sites:

- **NCAR News Center - More About Clouds on the Web**  
[www.ucar.edu/news/events/moreclouds.shtml](http://www.ucar.edu/news/events/moreclouds.shtml)
- **Windows to the Universe - Clouds; Clouds in Art**  
[www.windows.ucar.edu](http://www.windows.ucar.edu)  
[www.windows.ucar.edu/tour/link=/art\\_and\\_music/cloud\\_art/cloud\\_art\\_main.html](http://www.windows.ucar.edu/tour/link=/art_and_music/cloud_art/cloud_art_main.html)
- **Web Weather for Kids - Clouds**  
<http://eo.ucar.edu/webweather/cloudhome.html>
- **UCAR Digital Image Library**  
[www.fin.ucar.edu/ucardil/](http://www.fin.ucar.edu/ucardil/)
- **Kids' Crossing - Colors in the Sky**  
<http://eo.ucar.edu/kids/sky/colors1.htm>