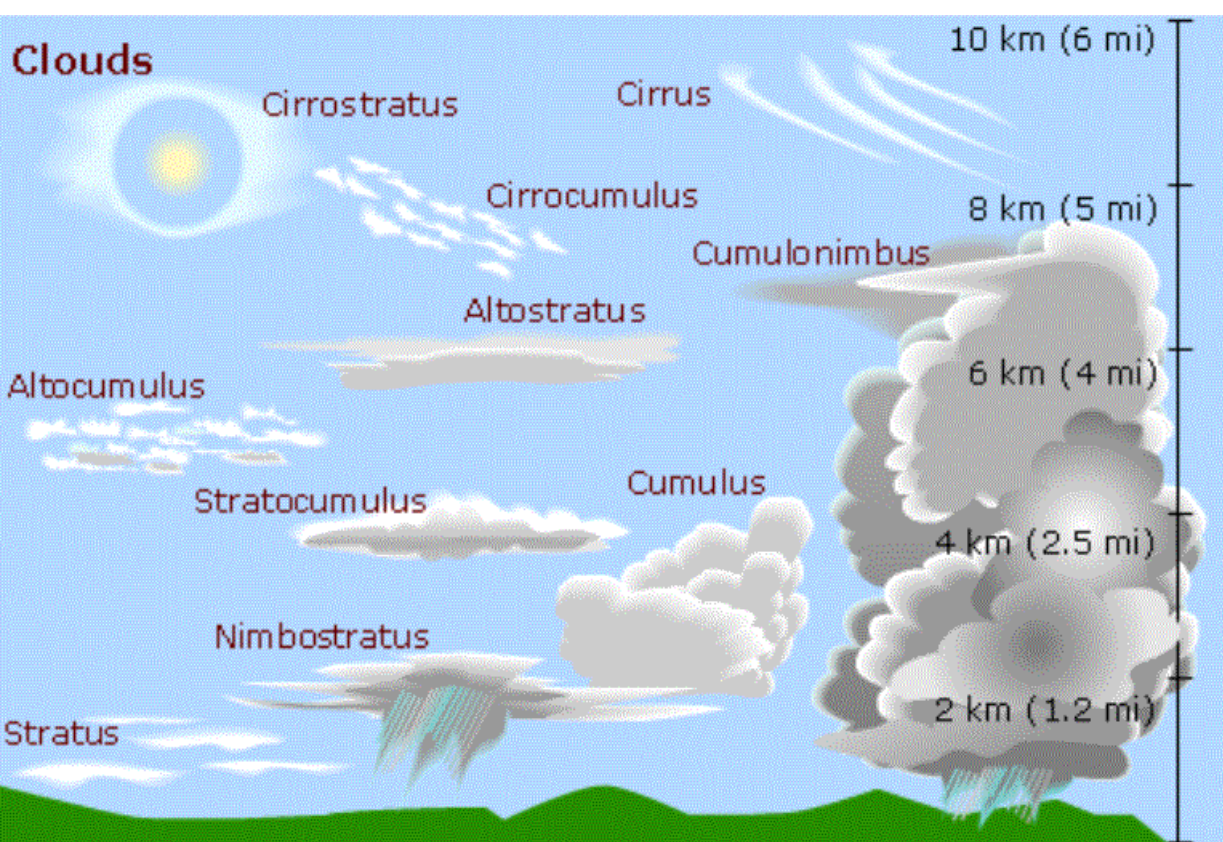


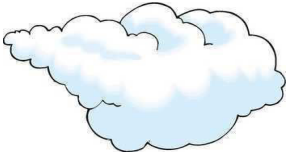
Clouds



CLOUDS

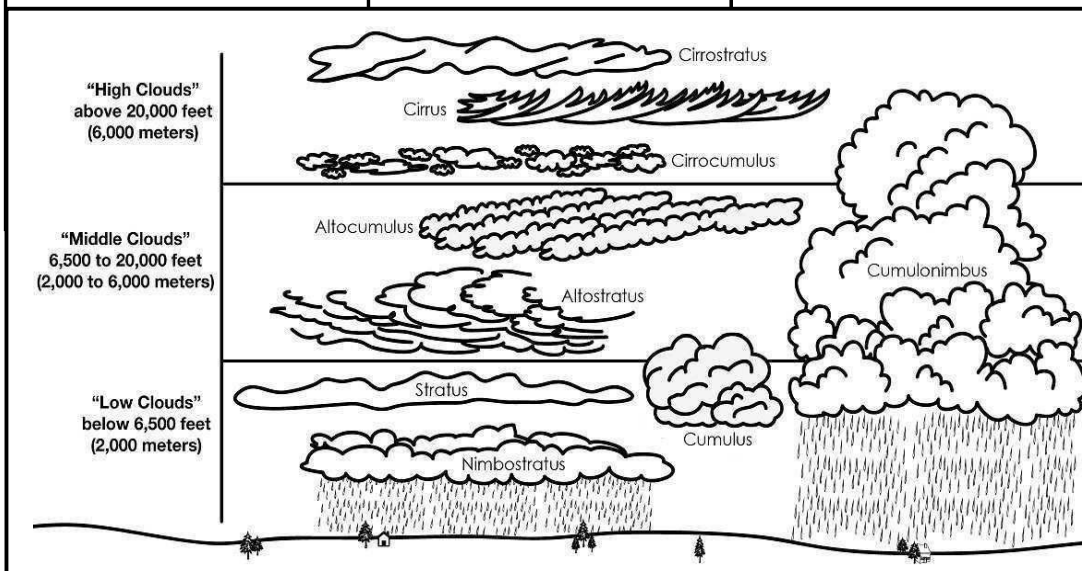
NOTES--

TYPES OF CLOUDS



When you look up in the sky, you realize that no two clouds look exactly alike. Clouds are formed from water vapor that condenses then clusters together in droplets. There are many different types of clouds that can be seen. The types of clouds are determined based on what they look like and how high they are in the atmosphere.

High-Level Clouds	Mid-Level Clouds	Low-Level Clouds	Vertical Clouds
<p>High-level clouds are formed in altitudes above 20,000 feet. Because the temperatures are so cold at this elevation, these clouds are formed from ice crystals.</p> <p><u>Cirrus</u> clouds are thin and wispy clouds that are blown by high winds. They usually mean the day will have fair or pleasant weather, and follow the direction that the air moves at the altitude they are found at.</p> <p><u>Cirrostratus</u> clouds are like very thin sheets of clouds that cover large parts of the sky.</p> <p><u>Cirrocumulus</u> clouds look like small round puffs in the sky. Sometimes they are called mackerel clouds because they look similar to fish scales.</p>	<p>Mid-level clouds are found in altitudes between 6,500 to 20,000 feet. They are formed mainly of water droplets, but can also be made up of ice crystals when the temperature is cold enough.</p> <p><u>Altostratus</u> clouds are composed of water droplets and are gray and puffy. These clouds are usually seen on warm and humid summer mornings and are usually a sign that thunderstorms will follow later in the day.</p> <p><u>Altostratus</u> clouds are made up of ice crystals and water droplets. They can cover the entire sky and form before rain storms.</p>	<p>Low-level clouds are found below 6,500 feet and although they are mostly made up of water droplets. They can also be composed of ice particles and snow in very cold temperatures.</p> <p><u>Stratus</u> clouds are among the low-lying clouds. They are gray clouds that cover the entire sky and can be the result of very thick fog lifting in the morning.</p> <p><u>Nimbostratus</u> clouds are dark gray clouds that produce falling rain or snow.</p>	<p><u>Cumulus</u> and <u>cumulonimbus</u> clouds are both known as vertical clouds.</p> <p><u>Cumulus</u> clouds are also called fair weather clouds and look like floating cotton. They have very flat bases and are not very tall clouds. When <u>cumulus</u> clouds are first formed from droplets, they have very distinct edges, but as they move through the sky, air causes the edges to appear more ragged and broken apart.</p> <p><u>Cumulonimbus</u> clouds can take up several miles across the sky and can reach elevations of 39,000 feet or higher because of very strong updrafts in the atmosphere. Low level <u>cumulonimbus</u> clouds are made up of water droplets, but at higher elevations, they consist of ice crystals. <u>Cumulonimbus</u> clouds are they type of clouds that bring lightning, thunder, violent tornadoes and other intense weather situations.</p>



Common Types of Clouds

Cloud Name	Appearance	Composition	What It Produces	Usual Forecast
Cirrus	Wispy, feathery—sometimes called “mare’s tails”	Ice Crystals	Nothing	Fair
Cirrostratus	Thin, gauzy sheets—Sun appears to have a halo	Ice Crystals	Nothing	Fair
Cirrocumulus	Thin, patchy, wave-like — “mackerel sky”	Ice Crystals	Nothing	Fair
Alto cumulus	Puffy or roll-like—Sun may appear to have a yellow or blue ring	Water	Drizzle, Snow Flurries	Rain
Altostratus	Dense, gray-blue sheets	Ice and Water	Light Rain or Snow	Storms
Stratocumulus	Irregular masses of gray clouds—rippled like cardboard	Water	Drizzle or Snow Flurries	Changing weather
Stratus	Low, uniform, gray sheets	Water	Drizzle or Snow Flurries	Fair
Nimbostratus	Dark, rain clouds—rain often visible	Ice and Water	Steady Rain or Snow	Long spell of precipitation
Cumulus	White, puffy — “balls of cotton”	Water	Nothing	Fair
Cumulonimbus	Thunderheads—flat on top like an anvil; the point indicates the direction the cloud is moving	Ice and Water	Heavy Rain, Snow, Hail	Thunderstorms
Fog	Stratus clouds that touch the ground	Water	Drizzle or Snow Flurries	Fair