



Day 19: Clouds

What are Clouds?

Clouds can tell us so much just by their different shapes and textures! Not only are they fun to watch, but can also tell us what future weather holds. What has to happen for nature's sky paintbrush to work? For clouds to form, several things need to happen. First, water vapor has to mix with dust, dirt, or sea salt particles and rise into the atmosphere. Then, the water vapor has to condense and turn into cloud droplets. The cloud droplets are much smaller and lighter than raindrops. Finally, the cloud droplets combine together to form clouds. Clouds can help us understand or predict the weather. Below are four common types.



Cumulus - known as 'fair weather' clouds, they look like cotton or wool puffs and indicate there is no rain in the forecast.

Cumulonimbus

A sure sign of heavy rain on its way. Cumulonimbus clouds are Cumulus clouds that have expanded. These menacing clouds can be massive and are often dark gray in color. When you see one, it's time to get inside because a storm is on the way.



the atmosphere. They are sometimes called mares tails, because they look like horse tails.

Cirrus - These wispy clouds are found very high in the atmosphere, and are mostly made of ice crystals falling through

Stratus - These clouds are a low continuous cloud sheet. These clouds are very similar to fog. They make the typical gray cloudy day.



Make your own cloud in a jar

For this experiment, you're going to need a clean mason jar with a lid, boiling water (*optional: add a couple drops of food coloring for a cool effect*), an aerosol can (hairspray works best) and a couple of ice cubes. Fill the mason jar about halfway with boiling water. Place your lid upside down on top of your mason jar, and place your ice cubes on top of the lid. After about a minute, quickly remove the lid, and spray your aerosol inside the mason jar, now quickly cap your mason jar with its lid. Put the ice-cubes back on your lid. Sit and watch your cloud form! After a couple of minutes, take your lid off and watch your cloud escape. [Cloud in A Jar Video Tutorial](#)

Weather Wizard

You are your family's personal weather forecaster! Take a couple minutes to scan the sky, which cloud formations do you see? Predict what the weather will be in a couple of hours. Write down your predictions in your Nature Journal. Visit your journal at the end of the day, were your weather predictions correct? Are there any clouds that aren't listed?

Share your Findings or Creations with us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

Tomorrow's Theme: Video Challenge #2: Identifying Baby Plants

Time to explore! - Maura McMud