

LESSON

23

What are the different kinds of clouds?

Can you walk through a cloud? Yes you can! Just take a walk when it is foggy. A fog is one kind of cloud. A fog is a cloud that forms near the ground. Most clouds do not touch the ground. We have to look up into the sky to see them.

Clouds come in many shapes and sizes. Three kinds of clouds you often see are **cumulus** [KYOOM-yuh-lus], **stratus** [STRAT-us], and **cirrus** [SIR-us].

CUMULUS CLOUDS are white and fluffy. They look like large puffs of cotton. Cumulus clouds form mostly on warm summer days. Usually, they mean that the weather will be fair.

In hot weather, a cumulus cloud may grow extra big and turn dark. It becomes a thunderhead.

A thunderhead is a storm cloud. It brings heavy rain with thunder and lightning.

STRATUS CLOUDS are low in the sky. They spread over a large area like a giant gray blanket.

Stratus clouds are rain clouds.

CIRRUS CLOUDS are streaky. They look like thin feathers.

Cirrus clouds are very high in the sky where it is very cold. They are made up of tiny ice crystals.

Cirrus clouds tell us that it may rain or snow within a day or two.

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WHAT DO THE CLOUDS SHOW?

Study the pictures of the clouds below. Then answer the questions under the pictures.



Figure A Cumulus clouds

1. What kind of weather do cumulus clouds usually bring? _____



Figure B A thunderhead

2. What kind of weather does a thunderhead bring? _____

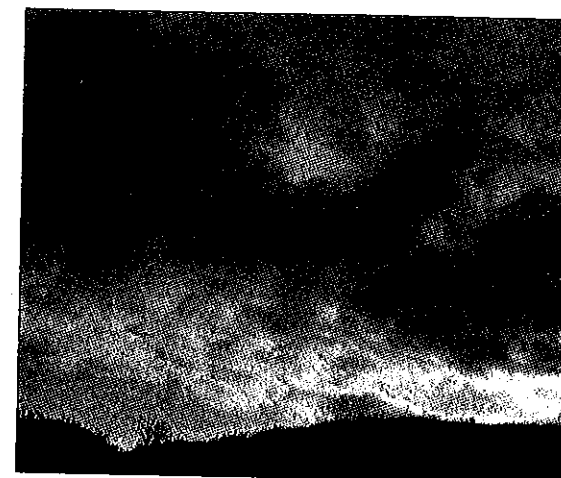


Figure C Stratus clouds

3. What kind of weather do stratus clouds bring? _____



Figure D Cirrus clouds

1. What do cirrus clouds tell us may happen within a day or two? _____

FILL IN THE BLANK

Complete each statement using a term or terms from the list below. Write your answers in the spaces provided. Some words may be used more than once.

ice
cumulus
sizes and shapes

droplets of water
stratus
condensed water vapor

cirrus
fog

1. A cloud is made up of billions of tiny _____.
2. The water that makes up clouds comes from _____.
3. A cloud that is touching the ground is called a _____.
4. Clouds come in many _____.
5. Three common kinds of clouds are _____, _____, and _____ clouds.
6. Gray clouds that spread over a large area are called _____ clouds.
7. Feathery-looking clouds are called _____ clouds.
8. Clouds that look like puffs of cotton are called _____ clouds.
9. A thunderhead builds up from a _____ cloud.
10. Cirrus clouds are made up of crystals of _____.

MATCHING

Match each term in Column A with its description in Column B. Write the correct letter in the space provided.

Column A

- _____ 1. cumulus
- _____ 2. stratus
- _____ 3. cirrus
- _____ 4. thunderhead
- _____ 5. fog

Column B

- a) low, gray rain clouds
- b) cloud that touches the ground
- c) storm cloud
- d) fair-weather clouds
- e) ice clouds

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MATCHING

Match each term in Column A with its description in Column B. Write the correct letter in the space provided.

Column A	Column B
_____ 1. cumulus	a) low, gray rain clouds
_____ 2. stratus	b) cloud that touches the ground
_____ 3. cirrus	c) storm cloud
_____ 4. thunderhead	d) fair-weather clouds
_____ 5. fog	e) ice clouds

WHICH ONE

Look at pictures of clouds in Figures E, F, and G. Then answer the questions about the pictures. Write the proper letter on the spaces provided.

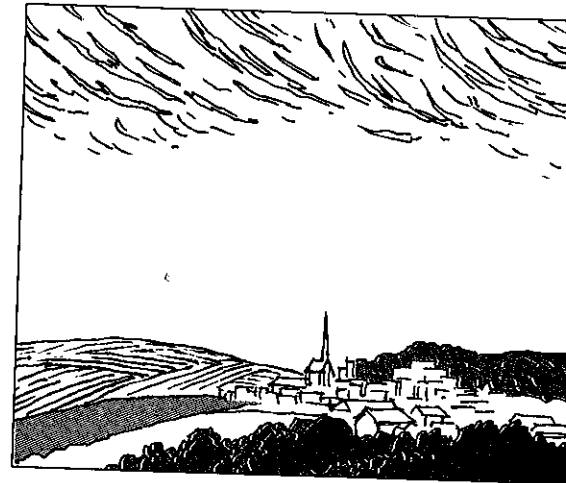


Figure E

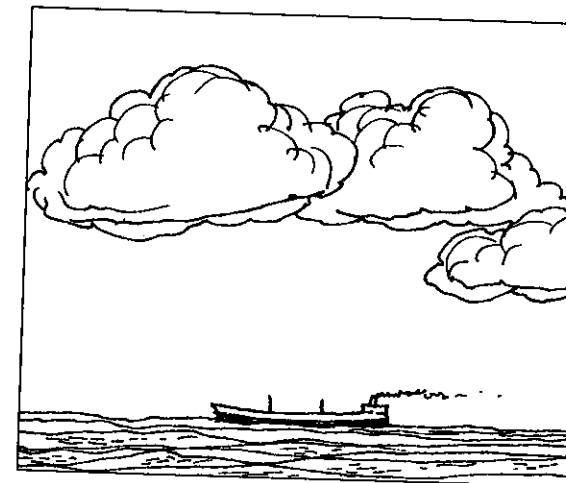


Figure F



Figure G

Which picture . . .

1. shows stratus clouds? _____
2. shows cirrus clouds? _____
3. show cumulus clouds? _____

Which kind of cloud . . .

4. is highest in the sky? _____
5. is lowest in the sky? _____
6. is made up of ice crystals? _____
7. usually means fair weather? _____
8. means possible rain or snow? _____
9. means rain? _____
10. may become a thunderhead? _____

TRUE OR FALSE

In the space provided, write "true" if the sentence is true. Write "false" if the sentence is false.

- _____ 1. Clouds are made up of water vapor.
- _____ 2. There is only one kind of cloud.
- _____ 3. Fog is a cloud.
- _____ 4. Stratus clouds are low clouds.
- _____ 5. Cumulus clouds mean fair weather.
- _____ 6. Stratus clouds are made of ice crystals.
- _____ 7. Cirrus clouds are the highest clouds.
- _____ 8. A thunderhead builds up from cirrus clouds.
- _____ 9. Stratus clouds are rain clouds.
- _____ 10. The sizes and shapes of clouds are always changing.

REACHING OUT

We often hear on the weather report that "the fog will burn away." What does that mean?
