

Name _____ Date _____

Activity 3.2.1 Reading the Sky: Cloud Types and Precipitation Possibilities

OBJECTIVES

- To practice identifying clouds using a cloud chart.
- To observe the sky for several days and record the types of clouds and the percentage of sky cover.
- To make weather predictions based upon cloud type, and compare predictions against official forecasts and the actual weather experienced.

ALTOCUMULUS



These middle altitude versions of stratocumulus appear as large gray puffs. Their appearance on a humid summer morning indicates an afternoon thunderstorm.

ALTOSTRATUS



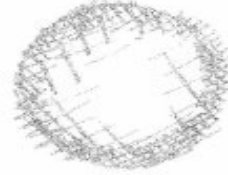
These gray to bluish-gray middle altitude clouds usually cover the complete sky. The Sun may be visible through some of the thinner sections, but there isn't the halo effect that occurs with cirrostratus clouds. They form ahead of a front and their presence usually indicates widespread continuous precipitation will follow.

CIRROCUMULUS



High altitude ice clouds with a patchy or white puff type of appearance. They seldom cover the sky completely and can indicate precipitation within 24 hours.

CIRROSTRATUS



These high altitude clouds can be so thin that they are only visible as a halo around the Sun or moon. This halo effect is caused by ice crystals in the clouds which bend the light rays. They occur before the arrival of a warm front. Their presence indicates rain or snow within the next 24 hours.

(continued on Side 2)

Passport to Weather and Climate, Activity 3.2.1, *Reading the Sky*