

Clouds Types and Cloud Formation – NOTES & WORKSHEET

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 is touching 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. There kinds of clouds you often see are *cumulus* [KYOO myuh lus], *stratus* [STRAT us], and *cirrus* [Sir us].

CUMULUS CLOUDS are white and fluffy. They look like large puffs of cotton, (Figure A.). Cumulus clouds form mostly on warm summer days and usually mean the weather will be fair. In hot weather, a cumulus cloud may grow extra big and turn dark. It becomes a *thunderhead* (Figure B).

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

STRATUS CLOUDS are low in the sky. They spread over a large area like a giant gray blanket (Figure C). Stratus clouds are rain clouds.

CIRRUS CLOUDS are streaky. They look like thin feathers (Figure D). 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.

WHAT DO THE CLOUDS SHOW?