

Clouds Facts and Fun

Read about and fill in the name of each of the cloud types.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

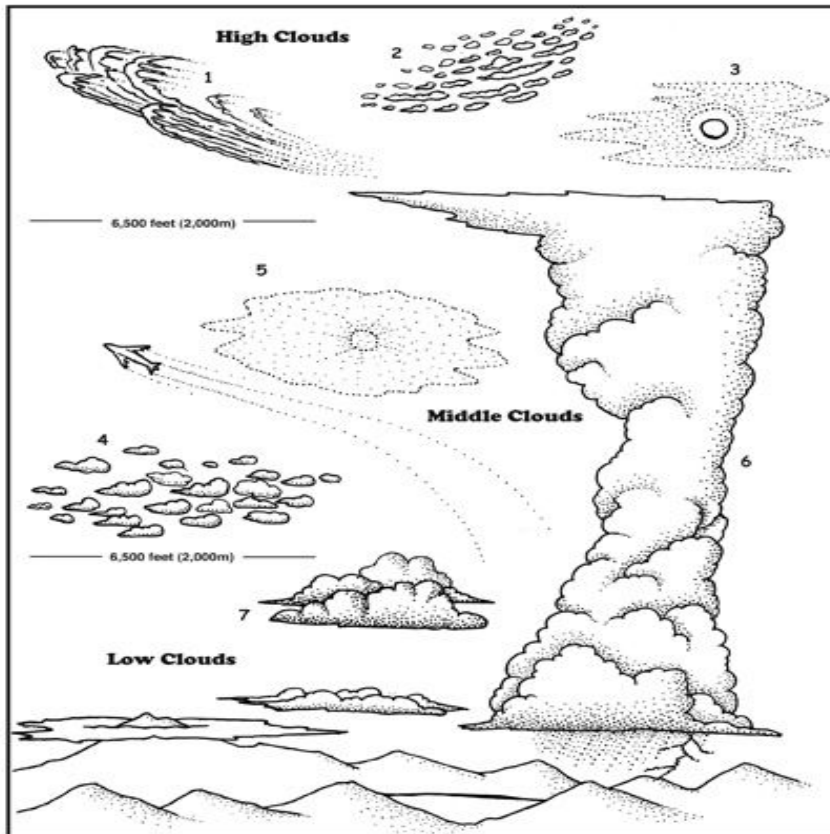
5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

Cloud Fun Fact!

Cumulonimbus clouds have an anvil shape because they rise so high that they reach the fiercer winds of the outer troposphere and stratosphere, which cut off their tops into an anvil shape.



1. Cirrus, 2. Cirrostratus, 3. Altostratus, 4. Altostratus, 5. Nimbostratus, 6. Cumulonimbus, 7. Cumulus

Altostratus are huge sheets of gray clouds that fill the sky, allowing only a dim outline of the sun and no shadows on the ground. They often are pushed in front of an oncoming snow or rain storm.

Cumulonimbus are thunderheads with low-lying dark bottoms that rise into giant rounded tops. They can have rain, snow, hail or lightning and sometimes even spawn tornadoes.

Cirrostratus are thin sheets of high clouds that spread across the sky, making it a *hazy sky*. They show a ring around the sun, but enough light still comes through to cast shadows on the ground.

Cumulus are cottony fair weather clouds that form shapes as they rise in a blue sky. They have darker, flat bottoms and rounded, puffy tops. They are fair weather clouds.

Cirrocumulus are small, rounded puffs of clouds that ripple across the sky in rows, like fish scales. That is why they are nicknamed a *mackerel sky*.

Cirrus are the most common high clouds. They are very high, wispy clouds blown by the wind into long wisps called *mares' tails*. They are a sign that good weather will follow.

Altostratus are high, puffy clouds that spread across the sky in little rising masses. On hot summer days, they form afternoon thunderheads.