

Activity Duration: 30 minutes

Grade Level: K-5

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Cloud Viewing

1 2 3

High-level Clouds

are white and thin-looking. At sunrise or sunset, they can be very colorful. They are most often made of ice crystals.



1 Cirrus



2 Cirrocumulus



3 Cirrostratus

Cloud Viewer

4 5 6

Mid-level Clouds

are made mostly of water droplets. When temperatures are very low, the water droplets can turn to ice crystals.



4 Altocumulus



Saucer-shaped lenticular clouds are common in mountainous regions of the world.

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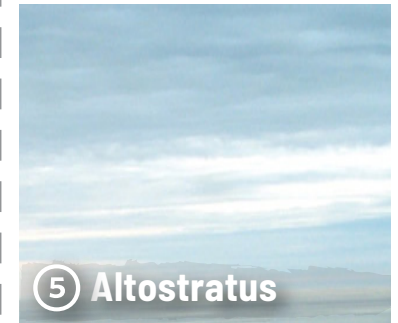
How are clouds classified?

Scientists classify clouds by how high they are in the sky (low, medium or high), and by whether they are flat (stratus), puffy (cumulus), rain-filled (nimbus), or a combination of these characteristics.

How does the Cloud Viewer work?

Print pages 2-3 (can be printed back-to-back.)

Cut along the dashed line in the center of the page. Look through the opening in the Cloud Viewer at the sky above you. What types of clouds do you see today? Use the Cloud Viewer to help you classify the clouds outside.



5 Altostratus



6 Nimbostratus

7 8 9 10

Low-level Clouds

are made of water droplets. Cumulonimbus clouds (9) can rise rapidly causing water droplets to turn to ice.



7 Cumulus



8 Stratocumulus

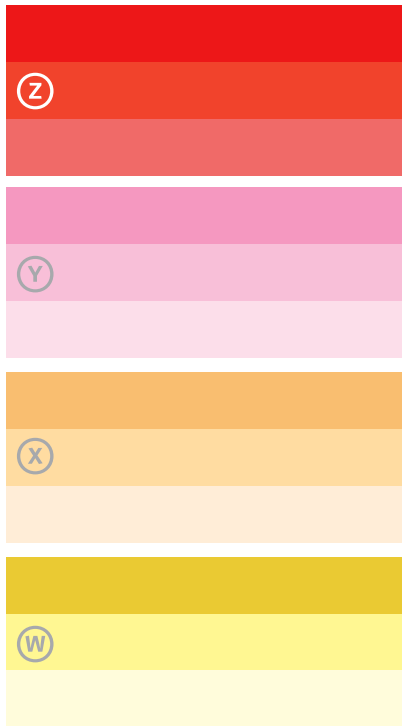
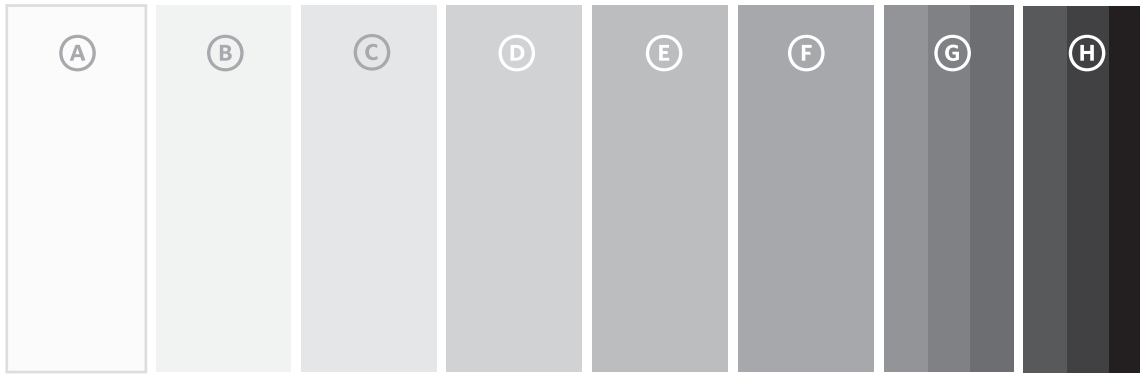


9 Cumulonimbus



10 Stratus

Sky Viewer

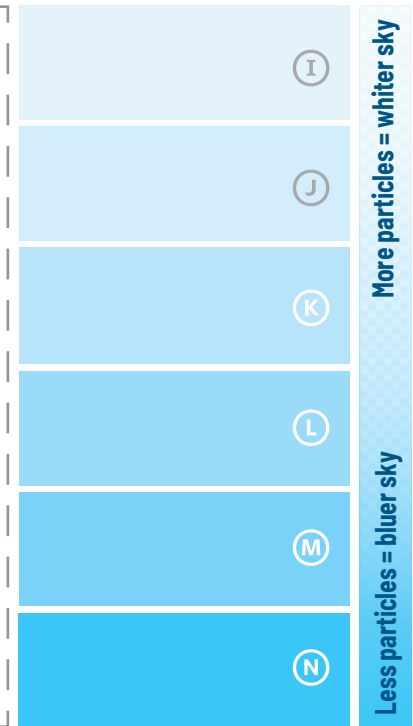


Use this **SKY VIEWER** to identify and match the sky's colors. Why does the color of the sky vary? What makes it bright blue or light blue? Is the sky's color the same from low on the horizon to high above us? Why might the sky's color vary over space and time? Why are some clouds dark and some bright white? What can cause the sky to turn orange, pink, yellow, and/or red at sunrise or sunset? Which particulates in the sky create smog? And where does the blue sky go when night falls? Be an atmosphere explorer and find the answers to these and other questions!



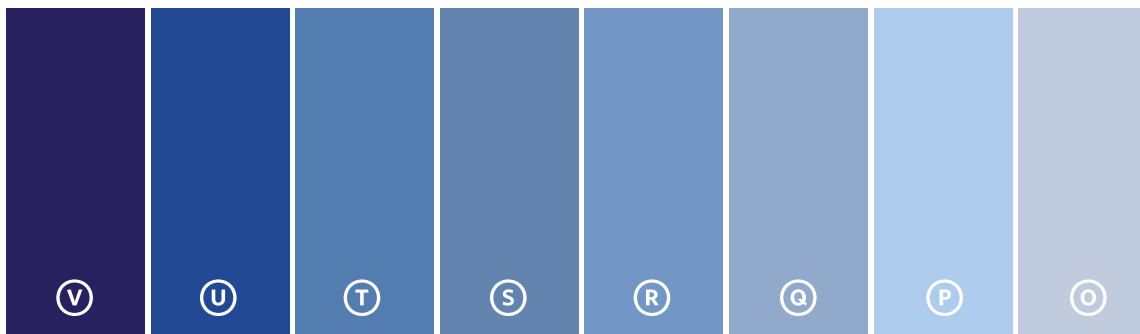
Learn more about the sky!

SciEd.ucar.edu/clouds
SciEd.ucar.edu/atmosphere
SciEd.ucar.edu/apps/cloud-guide



More particles = whiter sky

Less particles = bluer sky



Less particles = bluer sky

More particles = whiter sky

