

CLOUD DESCRIPTION WORKSHEET

NAME	ELEVATION (in feet)	DESCRIPTION	SIGNIFICANCE
CIRRUS "mares tails"	18,000-52,000 3.72 miles	Thin, wispy, feathery and silky.	If with grey-blue background rain is to be expected.
CIRROCUMULUS "mackerel sky"	25,000-52,000 3.72 miles	A layer composed of small white flakes which are arranged in groups or lines. Resembles fish scales	Fair weather.
CIRROSTRATUS	Around 25,000	A thin, whitish blanket through which the sun shines producing halos	Usually with forecasts of rain or snow within 24 hours.
ALTOCUMULUS	10,000 -16,000 1.24-3.72 miles	Humid Warm morning air. Like wool packs or big lumps of cotton.	Fair weather clouds With afternoon showers.
ALTOSTRATUS	10,000 -16,000 1.24-3.72 miles	Like wool packs or big lumps of cotton.	Fair weather clouds.
CUMULUS	2,000 - 4,000 1.24 miles	Fluffy, billowy floating clouds.	A fair (humid) weather cloud.
STRATUS	Mostly below 5,000 1.24 miles	A heavy grey blanket over whole sky. Really a heavy fog which has risen.	"Low ceiling". Rain not necessary but probable.
STRATOCUMULUS	2,000 - 6,000 1.24 miles	A low cloud, flat beneath and rounded at the top. Soft grey with, darker parts	May produce light rains or snow
NIMBOSTRATUS	2,000 - 6,000 1.24 miles	A low cloud, flat beneath and rounded at the top. Dark grey wet looking.	Rain or snow steady long ranging from light to moderate
CUMULONIMBUS "Thunderhead"	4,000 -30,000 11.16 miles	Bases may almost touch the ground. <i>Anvil</i> shaped top.	Storm clouds; lightning, rain and hail. Also produces tornadoes.