

WEATHER TRACKTIVITY

TYPES OF CLOUDS

You can use clouds to help predict the weather. Below are common clouds you might see when outdoors.

HIGH



CIRRUS

Delicate and feathery.
Meaning: A change in weather is on the way.



CIRROSTRATUS

Thin, and covers the sky like a veil.
Meaning: Rain or snow is on the way within the next 24 hours.

MIDDLE



ALTOCUMULUS

Rows of puffy ripples.
Meaning: Fair weather.



ALTOSTRATUS & NIMBOSTRATUS

Gloomy and covers entire sky.
Meaning: Prepare for continuous rain or snow lasting hours.

LOW



CUMULUS

Fluffy and white.
Meaning: Fair weather.



STRATUS

Thin, white sheets covering entire sky. Often like "fog" in higher elevations.
Meaning: Fair, but gloomy.



STRATOCUMULUS

Patchy gray or white clouds. "Honeycomb-like."
Meaning: Fair weather, but usually precedes a storm.



CUMULONIMBUS

Huge towering clouds that rise very high.
Meaning: Storm clouds. Expect rain, hail, or thunderstorms.

OTHER:



CONTRAILS

These clouds are caused by high-flying jet airplanes. They form from water vapor that has condensed in the jet engine.

WEATHER TRACKTIVITY

NATURE'S WEATHER SERVICE

RED SKY

"Red in the morning, sailors take warning. Red at night, sailors delight." Have you heard this saying?

A red sky during sunrise is a sign of low air pressure, meaning rain is on the way. However, a red sky during sunset indicated high pressure and that the next day will be clear.



BIRDS

Birds will fly lower or perch when bad weather is on the way. You may also see more birds gathering food ahead of a storm.



FLOWERS

Many flowers will close up before a storm hits. The smell of flowers also becomes stronger when there is more moisture in the air.



PINE CONES

Pine cones react to humidity. When the air pressure is high, pine cones will close to prepare for a storm. And in low pressure they open again.



WIND DIRECTION

West winds indicate high pressure, and good weather. East-blowing winds indicate low pressure and bad weather.



CRICKETS

During warmer months, crickets can help give you an approximation of the temperature in Fahrenheit. Count how many times a cricket chirps in 15 seconds then add 37.

