

Activity

Cloud Observation

MATERIALS

- Construction paper or cardboard
- Scissors
- Glue
- Photocopies of the *Cloud Observer* handout (p. 5)
- An observation table

DURATION

30 MINUTES

Activity Summary

This activity takes place on a partially sunny day, that is, when there are clouds in the sky, but the sky is not completely overcast. Students will build a cloud observer in class. They will then go outdoors to observe the clouds and try to identify them. **This activity can be done individually or in teams.**

Preparation

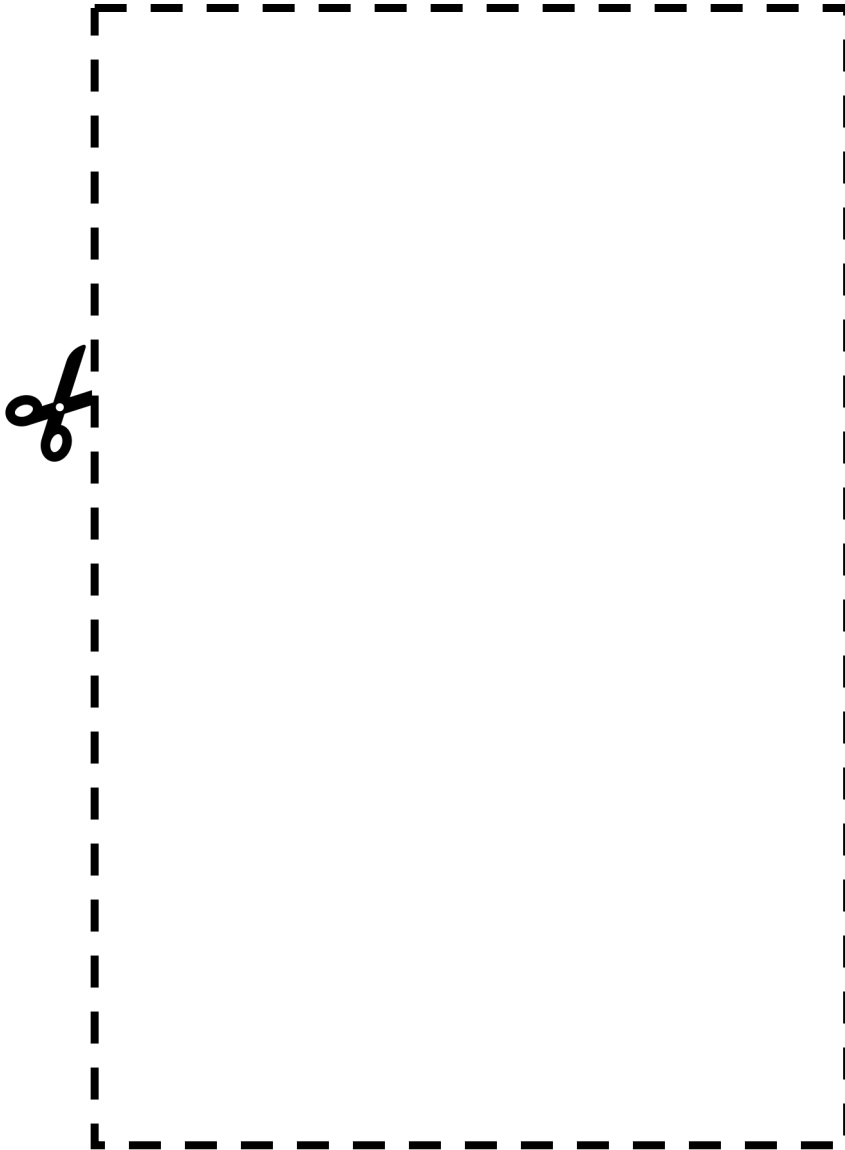
- Learn about the different types of clouds in order to share this information with students. We suggest *Identifying Clouds* by Alloprof: <https://www.alloprof.qc.ca/en/students/vl/sciences/identifying-clouds-s1356>
- Gather the necessary materials for students to make their cloud observers. You can use sheets of construction paper or cardboard.
- Make yourself a cloud observer to show as an example to students.
- Make photocopies of the cloud observer worksheets (p. 5) for each student and have the observation table example ready.



Steps

Make a Cloud Observer

- A.** Say:
- Take cardboard or a sheet of construction paper and cut out a rectangle of about 10 cm by 15 cm in the center of the cardboard.

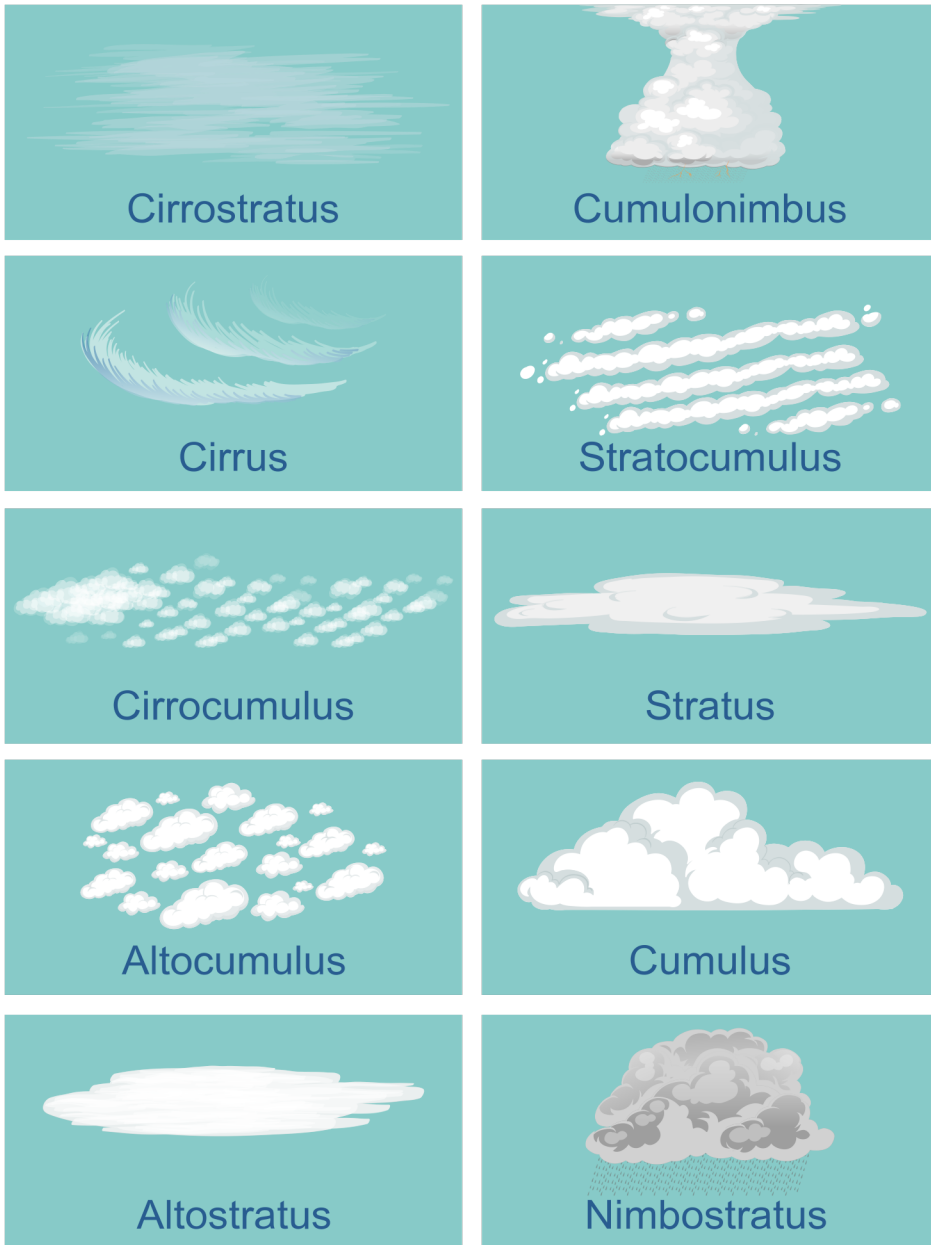


B. Tell students:

- Cut out the 10 photos of clouds from the *Cloud Observer* sheet. Glue these photos on the cardboard/paper around the rectangle.

Show students your example of the cloud observer.

- When using your cloud observer, never look directly at the Sun unless you use glasses specially approved for safe observation.



Make an observation table

C. Tell students:

- Create a table with the names of the clouds written in the left column and include a column for each of your observation dates.

Show the example to students:

CLOUD NAME	MARCH 21	APRIL 18	OTHER DATES
CUMULUS	X		
STRATUS			
CIRRUS			
STRATOCUMULUS			
CUMULONIMBUS			
ALTOCUMULUS			
NIMBOSTRATUS			
ALTOSTRATUS			
CIRROSTRATUS			
CIRROCUMULUS			

D. Recognizing clouds

- Go through the **Identifying Clouds** webpage by Alloprof and study it with students.
- Invite students to open this webpage on their tablets, if applicable.

Go outside with your students on a day when there are clouds in the sky.

Tell students:

- Walk around, without straying too far. I should always be able to see you.
- Take your cloud observer and point it toward the sky. Choose a cloud to look at and aim the open part of your cloud observer toward it.
- Never stare directly at the Sun.
- Compare this cloud with the pictures on your cloud observer.
- Can you identify the cloud you're looking at?
- Mark down the type of cloud(s) you observed on your observation table during this outing.

RETURN
TO GROUP

- Students share and discuss their observations as a group.
- Can they predict the weather after observing the clouds of the day?
- Did their predictions come true?
- Students can complete further research on clouds.

Alloprof (N.D.).
Identifying Clouds
<https://www.alloprof.gc.ca/en/students/vl/sciences/identifying-clouds-sl356>

Cloud Observer



Cirrocumulus



Stratocumulus



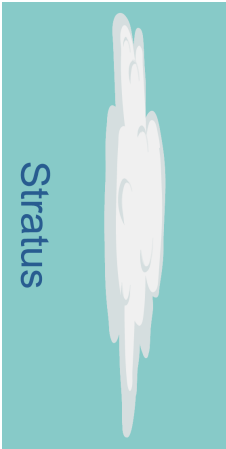
Cirrus



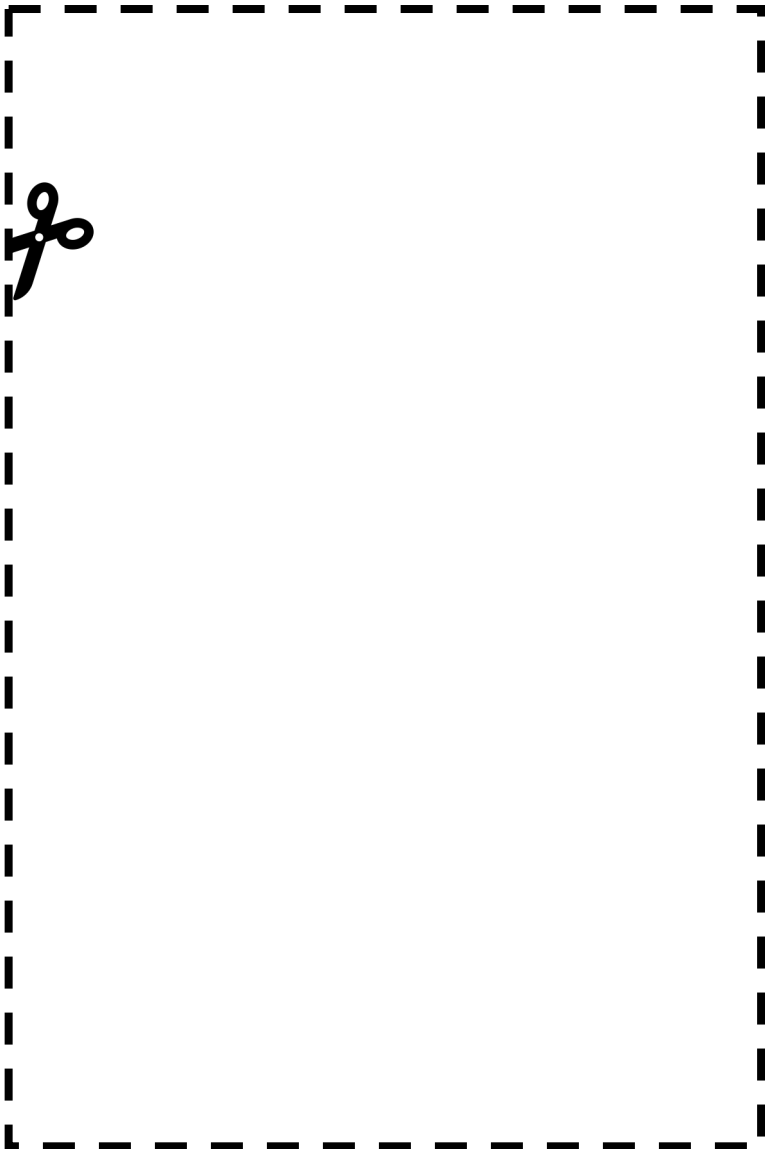
Cirrostratus



Alto cumulus



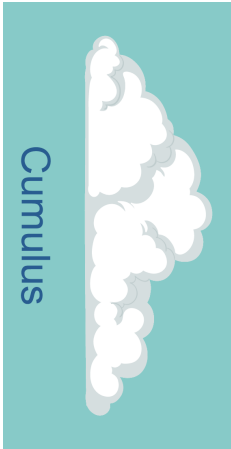
Stratus



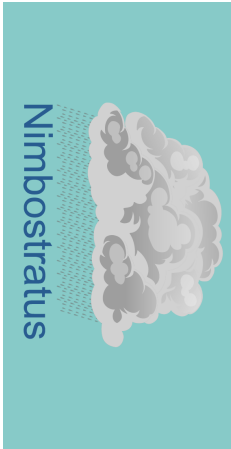
Cumulonimbus



Altostratus



Cumulus



Nimbostratus