Cloud Wheel
with Cards for Cloud Identification
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All the best,

Liska
Weather observation is one scientific interaction we have with nature on a daily basis. This cloud wheel will help children to observe weather and learn to identify ten of the most common types of clouds, casually using terms like “cumulonimbus” and “altostratus”.

**How to Use This Pack**

Attach the cloud wheel onto the fridge or by a window where you can observe the sky well. Make it a part of the child’s routine to come and adjust the wheel to the right cloud type.

The cloud wheel will benefit from using the cloud cards that help with identifying the types of clouds in the sky. The cloud cards can also be put together in a little book for bringing on outings. Punch a hole in the corner of each card and slip them onto a keyring or a bookbinding ring.

**How to Put the Cloud Wheel Together**

1. Cut out the wheel and the arrow.
2. Punch a hole in the arrow. Punch a hole in the middle of the wheel.
3. Fasten the arrow and the wheel together with a split pin/brad.
ALSO MAKE: WEATHER WHEEL
CLOUDS

Clouds are given different names based on their shape and their height in the sky.

Some clouds can be seen near the ground, and others drift just below where jet planes fly. Some are puffy and white, while others are grey and uniform.

Read about 10 of the most common cloud types and learn how to identify them!

STRATUS

Type: Low, below 2000 m (6000 feet)

Stratus clouds hang low in the sky as a flat, featureless, uniform layer. They can cover most or all of the sky. Stratus looks like a fog that doesn’t reach the ground.

Stratus can be seen on overcast days. They sometimes come with light drizzle.

STRATOCUMULUS

Type: Low, below 2000 m (6000 feet)

If cumulus clouds were cut with an imaginary knife, then spread across the sky, that would be stratocumulus clouds. They are small, puffy and either white or gray in colour.

Stratocumulus are usually seen on cloudy days, with patches of blue sky appearing in-between.

CUMULUS

Type: Low, below 2000 m (6000 feet)

Cumulus clouds are the kind that children learn to draw at an early age. They look like floating cotton balls, puffy, rounded, and white.

Cumulus develops on clear, sunny days when the sun heats the ground directly below.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cloud Type</th>
<th>Type:</th>
<th>(Approx. Altitude)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nimbostratus</td>
<td>Low and middle, below 3000 m (10 000 feet)</td>
<td>Nimbostratus are quintessential rain clouds that cover the sky in a dark gray layer and block the sun out. They can be seen whenever steady rain or snow is falling over a widespread area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altocumulus</td>
<td>Middle, 2000—6000 m (6000—20 000 feet)</td>
<td>Altocumulus clouds appear as white or gray patches that look like tufts of wool, hence their nickname “sheep backs”. Altocumulus can sometimes be confused with stratocumulus clouds, but altocumulus clouds are higher and much smaller. If you hold your arm up in the sky, altocumulus clouds are the size of your thumb, while stratocumulus are the size of your fist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altostratus</td>
<td>Middle, 2000—6000 m (6000—20 000 feet)</td>
<td>Altostratus appear as gray or gray-blue sheets of cloud that cover the sky at mid-levels. What makes them different from nimbostratus clouds is that the sun can typically still be seen as a dimly lit disk behind these clouds. If the clouds thicken and rain starts to fall, it often means that altostratus clouds changed into nimbostratus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cirrus</td>
<td>High, above 6000 m (20 000 feet)</td>
<td>In Latin, “cirrus” means “a curl of hair”. Like their name suggests, cirrus are thin, white, wispy strands of clouds that streaks high across the sky. Cirrus typically occur in fair weather, but can sometimes indicate that a storm is coming.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**CIRROCUMULUS**
Type: High, above 6000 m (20 000 feet)
Cirrocumulus clouds are small rounded translucent puffs that appear in rows high in the sky. When these clouds cover a big part of the sky, they look like fish scales, and the sky is often called a "mackerel sky."
They usually only form as part of a short-lived transitional phase within an area of cirrus clouds.

**CIRROSTRATUS**
Type: High, above 6000 m (20 000 feet)
Cirrostratus clouds are transparent, whitish clouds that cover the entire sky at high altitude. A sure sign of cirrostratus is a "halo" (a ring or circle of light) around the sun or moon.

**CUMULONIMBUS**
Type: Stretch over the low, middle, and high layers of atmosphere, 200 m—12 000 m (7000 ft—39 000 ft)
Cumulonimbus resemble cumulus clouds, but grow into tall dense towers.
Cumulonimbus clouds are thunderstorm clouds that often bring heavy rain, thunder, and lightning. They are known to bring severe weather.

Approximate heights of clouds