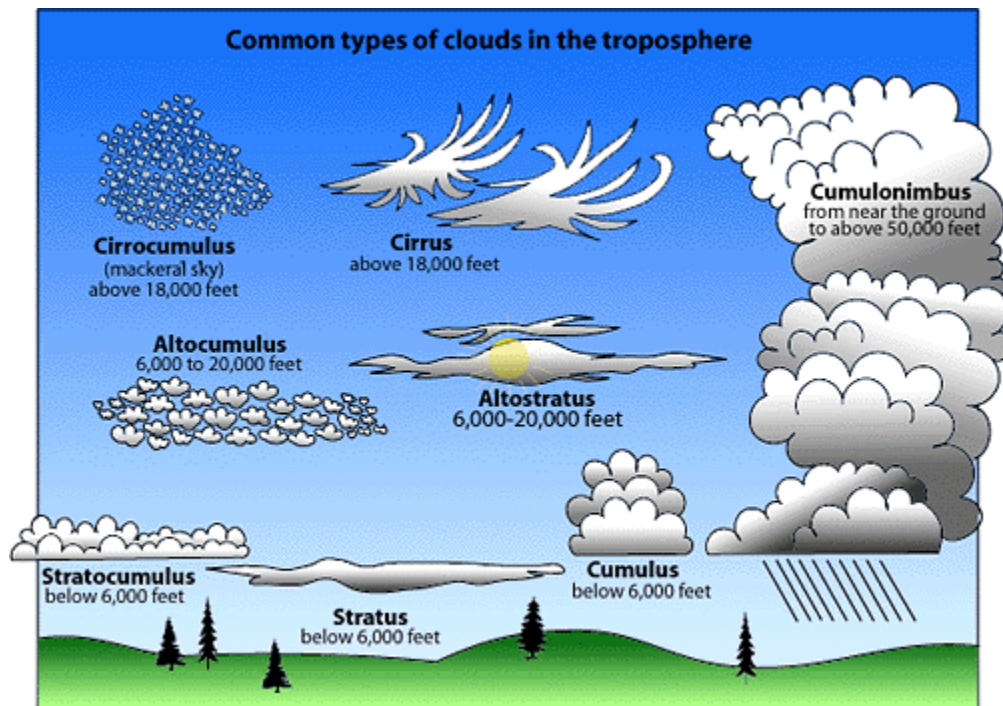


## The 10 Major Cloud Types

<b>High</b>	Cirrus, <b>Ci.</b> Cirrocumulus, <b>Cc.</b> Cirrostratus, <b>Cs</b>
<b>Middle</b>	Alto cumulus, <b>Ac.</b> Altostratus, <b>As.</b> Nimbostratus, <b>Ns</b>
<b>Low</b>	Stratocumulus, <b>Sc.</b> Stratus, <b>St.</b> Cumulus, <b>Cu.</b> Cumulonimbus, <b>Cb</b>



From: [http://www.ucar.edu/educ\\_outreach/webweather/cloud3.html](http://www.ucar.edu/educ_outreach/webweather/cloud3.html)

This method of cloud classification was proposed by Luke Howard (1803) who named the clouds based on their form:

Cirrus - *curl*

Stratus - *layer*

Cumulus - *heap*

Nimbus - *rain*

and on their height:

High

Middle

Low

Contrails fall into the category of **cirrus** as they are high level clouds that consist entirely of ice crystals.

For more useful cloud descriptions visit:

[Cloud Chart Gallery](#)

[Cloud Types for Children](#)

[Common cloud classifications](#)

The following book is also some recommended reading for cloud form and classification:

[Earth](#) from [Dorling Kindersley](#). Pages 466 to473.

This reference contains good descriptions of cloud type and form and also contains some useful images for cloud classifications.

[Home](#)