Types of clouds

Different cloud types form depending on the type of weather present. Clouds that form at different **altitudes** in the atmosphere have different names. Here are five common types of clouds.

Select the correct cloud:

1. Cirrus

High-level clouds form more than 6 km above the ground. This region overlaps the region for mid-altitude clouds. Cirrus are high-altitude clouds that are often thin, wispy, and white.





2. Cumulonimbus

Clouds that grow vertically have rising air inside them. The bases of these clouds may be as low as 1 km above the ground. The rising air may push the tops of these clouds higher than 12 km. Vertical clouds can cause thunderstorms.





3. Altocumulus

The bases of mid-level clouds are between 2 km and 7 km above the ground. Altocumulus clouds are mid-level clouds that look like small, puffy balls. The bottoms of the clouds can look dark because sunlight may not reach them.





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4. Stratus

Low-level clouds are often seen less than 2 km above the ground. Stratus clouds are low-level clouds that cover the whole sky. They look dark because little sunlight gets through the layer of clouds.





5. Fog

Fog is a cloud at ground level. As air near the ground cools, water vapor condenses into tiny droplets and forms a cloud at or near the ground. As more droplets form and get larger, the fog appears thicker.





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