



Cloud watching is a fun activity for all ages, allowing us to get fresh air, enjoy nature and observe our daily surroundings. Cloud watching can allow us to better appreciate and understand the earth we live on.

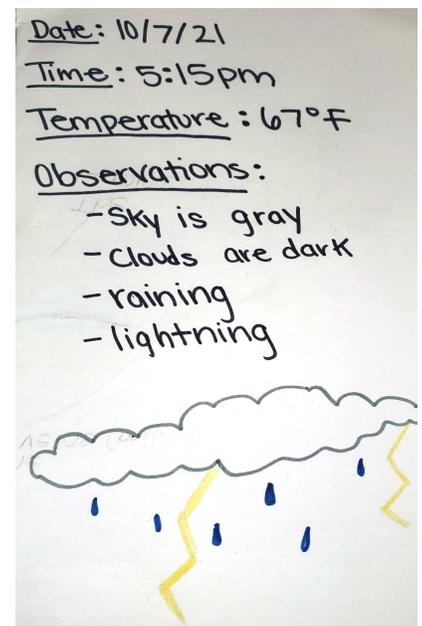
Cloud watching is great on a walk around your neighborhood, in a park while having a picnic, or just relaxing in your yard. Whichever location you choose, the most important thing is your safety. Pick a spot that is comfortable and safe with adult supervision at all times.

## ACTIVITY 1: CLOUD JOURNALS

One fun activity to do when cloud watching is creating a cloud journal. To create a cloud journal, collect three pieces of paper and fold them in half. To keep your journal secure, staple along the folded side. Write your name on the front and then open to the first page of your journal.

Now...

1. Write the date and time you are watching the clouds.
2. Ask an adult to let you use an electronic device and search the **temperature** in your location. (Cloud formation depends on temperature.)
3. Next, write any **observations** (what you see). Are there a lot of clouds? Very few clouds? What is the color of the sky?
4. Draw a picture of the clouds that you see.
5. Repeat this process for the remainder of the week.



SO, HOW MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF CLOUDS ARE THERE?

There are ten types of clouds that range from low level clouds forming below 6,500 feet, middle level clouds ranging from 6,500 to 20,000 feet and high level clouds are above 20,000 feet. Today we want you to focus on four main types of clouds. The [National Weather Service](#) has more information on cloud types.

1. **Cumulus clouds** - are low level clouds that have a flat bottom and are usually described as “puffy” looking.
2. **Stratus clouds** - are usually gray looking clouds that cover large portions of the sky; they are another type of low level cloud.
3. **Nimbus clouds** - are a third type of low level cloud, but they are darker in color and create precipitation (rain). Nimbus clouds are the clouds you see before a rainstorm.
4. **Cirrus clouds** - are wispy clouds and form between 5,000-13,000 and are a type of high level cloud.

### ACTIVITY 2:

Select a day when there are a lot of clouds in the sky. Using the four main types of cloud descriptions try and classify the clouds you observe into a cloud category provided above.

### ADDITIONAL LEARNING

Clouds are formed because of the water cycle. The sun heats up liquid water to become water vapour (a gas) through **evaporation**. Solid forms of water (like snow) can also turn into gas when heated through a process called **sublimation**. When water vapor turns back into liquid form, clouds form; this process is called **condensation**. For more information on how clouds form, check out [NASA Climate Kids](#).

In fact, the movement of water through the environment (known as the **Water Cycle**) is quite complex! Check out [this information from NOAA](#) (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration).

