

## Cloud Identification

This is a fairly straightforward activity that can be done for any age. Talk about weather and go/no go decisions based on age. We have two sets of cloud cards so more than one can play at the same time.

Supplies:

Laminated Types of Clouds  
a couple of “nimbus” and “nimbo” tags  
A large piece of paper with a sorting grid labeled  
Sorting directions

Sort the clouds by SHAPE: Kids should sort into categories. Stratocumulus & cirrostratus might be sorted into one of two categories as shown below. Cumulonimbus are kind of their own thing, if they sort into puffy that’s fine but if they say doesn’t fit any that’s fine too, just set to the side.

<b>Puffy</b>	<b>Flat/Layered</b>	<b>Wispy</b>
cirrocumulus		cirrostratus cirrus, contrails
altocumulus	altostratus	
cumulus	stratocumulus stratus, fog	

Cumulonimbus: multiple levels

Sort the types of cloud by SIZE/ALTITUDE: The above table is already sorted by height for reference. Talking points are types of low clouds, the meaning of prefixes (alto, cirro). Reference sizes for cumulus: if people hold out their arm straight, cumulus = fist size, altocumulus = thumb size, cirrocumulus = pinky size. Stratus clouds can be harder to tell since they are so flat.

LOW Clouds: cumulus, stratus, fog (fog is a stratus cloud touching the ground)

MID Clouds: alto-prefix

HIGH Clouds: Cirro-prefix & contrails

Multiple heights: Cumulonimbus!

Add a prefix if it is raining: Nimbo- Exception: cumulonimbus the “nimbus” goes at the end!

Q: What do each of these mean for flying weather? *Cumulus* are ok! **Cumulonimbus** stay away!

Stratus clouds can make visibility hard, be careful they may get low to the ground! Also can be pretty rainy. (Pilots feel free to add more using your weather knowledge if kids have questions)