

# CLOUD IDENTIFICATION

A Visual Guide to the Sky

## HIGH ALTITUDE (ABOVE 20,000 FT)

**Cirrus** Wispy, feathery ice crystals. Often called "mare's tails."

**Cirrocumulus** Small white ripples or grains. Looks like fish scales.

## MIDDLE ALTITUDE (6,500 - 20,000 FT)

**Alto cumulus** Gray or white sheets with round patches or rolls.

**Altostratus** Uniform gray sheet. The sun may shine through dimly.

## LOW ALTITUDE (BELOW 6,500 FT)

**Stratus** Flat, featureless gray layers covering the whole sky.

**Cumulus** Fluffy, white cotton balls with flat vertical bases.

**Cumulonimbus** Towering vertical clouds with an anvil top. Signal heavy rain and thunder.

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