

# CLOUD IDENTIFICATION CHART

Observer Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

[ Image: Wispy/Feathery ]

HIGH (ABOVE 20,000 FT) **Cirrus**

Thin, wispy strands often called "mare's tails." Made of ice crystals.

[ Image: Gray Sheet ]

MIDDLE (6,500 - 20,000 FT) **Altostratus**

Gray or blue-gray sheet covering the sky. Sun may shine through dimly.

[ Image: Puffy Cotton ]

LOW (BELOW 6,500 FT) **Cumulus**

White, puffy clouds that look like pieces of floating cotton.

[ Image: Tall Anvil ]

VERTICAL DEVELOPMENT **Cumulonimbus**

Dense, towering storm clouds with a dark base and anvil-shaped top.

[ Image: Flat Blanket ]

LOW (BELOW 6,500 FT) **Stratus**

Uniform grayish clouds that often cover the entire sky like a blanket.

[ Image: Small Patches ]

MIDDLE (6,500 - 20,000 FT) **Alto cumulus**

White or gray patches that look like rows of small waves or round masses.

Student Science Reference Material & Meteorologist Field Guide