Curious Clouds

Clouds look very different from each other, and those small differences can tell you a lot about the cloud and where it is in the sky.

Cut out the viewing window and hold the paper up to the sky. Compare your view of the clouds to the four types of clouds below. What type of clouds do you see? Based on the clouds, what do you think the weather might be like in a few hours?

Cirro-form: high, wispy clouds that can be up to 14 km above the ground. These can show up before a storm.

Cumulo-form: white, fluffy clouds resembling cauliflower that can be small or large and form from warm rising air.

Strato-form: broad, flat clouds that form layers low in the sky. They can bring light rain or snow.

Nimbo-form: large grey clouds low in the sky that bring rain and sometimes even thunderstorms.