How Well Can You Identify Clouds?

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Were there clouds in the sky this morning?

If so, what did they look like?

If not, why not?

Are there clouds in the sky now?

If so, what do they look like?

How much of the sky do they cover?

If not, why not?
You see clouds all the time. But did you know that clouds tell meteorologists a lot about what’s happening now and in the future? You can also learn to look at the sky and tell the weather that’s coming by looking at the clouds.

First, you need to be able to identify each cloud type.

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/89/Cumulus_cloud.jpg
Luke Howard created cloud names in the early 1800s

- **Cumulus** = puffy, fluffy
  These have a lot of verticality to their appearance. They may accompany fair weather or thunderstorms.

- **Cirrus** = feathery
  These high, thin clouds often indicate rain is on the way, but don’t produce precipitation themselves.

- **Stratus** = flat
  These may cover all or most of the sky, and often yield heavy rain or snow.

- **Nimbus** = storm
  This term is used as a prefix (nimbostratus) or suffix (cumulonimbus) with storm producers.
• Use your cloud identification charts, textbook, or other resources to identify the 10 clouds in this set of images.

• Write the name of each type by the number on the answer guide. Also write one or two important facts about that type of cloud.

• Some types occur more than once, so don’t rule out a name because you already have one.

• Be sure your group agrees before you write “your final answers.”

• Then answer the questions in the last 3 slides.
1. What type are these clouds?
2. What type are these clouds?
3. What type is this cloud?
4. What type are these clouds?
5. What type are these clouds?
6. What type is this cloud?
7. What cloud type is this?
8. What type are these clouds?
9. What type is this cloud?
10. What type are these clouds?
Now let’s compare cloud types

How does the vertical motion of the air in this cirrus cloud... ...compare with the vertical motion in this cumulus cloud?
What’s causing the colors in these sunset cloud images?

Long Beach Island, NJ

Brotas, Brasil
Finally, write a short story based on this cloudy day. That’s the GWB in the fog, looking south from the Englewood Boat Basin in a kayak.