

Cloud Vocabulary

Can you guess the correct description of each type of cloud?

- 1) cumulonimbus _____
 - a) Clouds forming a broken layer of small fleecy clouds at high altitude, usually 16,500–45,000 feet, typically with a rippled or granulated appearance
- 2) stratus _____
 - b) Large mid-level sheets of thin cloud. Usually composed of a mixture of water droplets and ice crystals, they are thin enough in parts to allow you to see the sun weakly through the cloud.
- 3) cumulus _____
 - c) Low-level clouds characterized by horizontal layering with a uniform base, as opposed to clouds that are formed by rising thermals
- 4) cirrocumulus _____
 - d) A large, localized, persistent, and often abrupt lowering of cloud that develops beneath the surrounding base of a cumulonimbus cloud and from which tornadoes sometimes form
- 5) cirrus _____
 - e) Clouds forming a towering mass with a flat base at fairly low altitude and often a flat top, as in thunderstorms
- 6) altostratus _____
 - f) Clouds made of ice crystals that look like long, thin, wispy white streamers high in the sky. They are commonly known as “mare’s tails” because they are shaped like the tail of a horse.
- 7) stratocumulus _____
 - g) Clouds forming rounded masses heaped on each other above a flat base at fairly low altitude
- 8) wall cloud _____
 - h) This type of cloud is a member of the ten fundamental cloud types (or cloud genera). It is a low-level cloud; thus it usually forms within the lowest two kilometers (6,600 ft) of the atmosphere.



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