

Name: _____

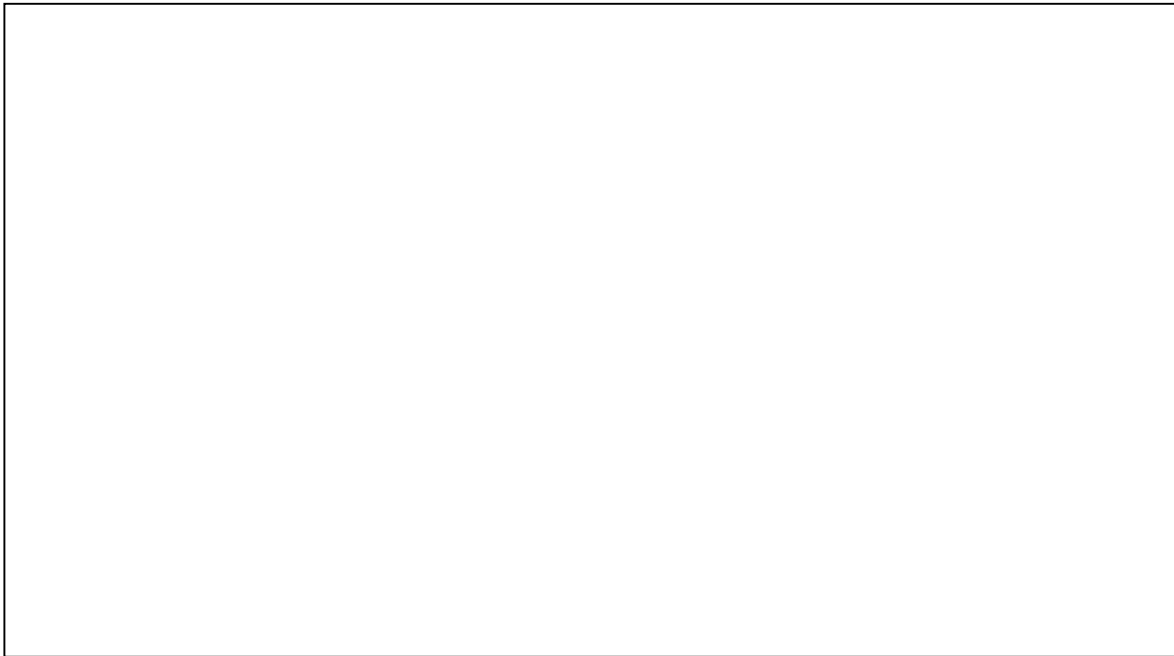
CLOUDS

There are three basic cloud types, cumulus, stratus and cirrus clouds. Cumulus clouds are white puffy clouds looking much like a cauliflower. You can usually see these on bright sunny days. They have flat bottoms but the tops are changing all the time. When a cumulus cloud grows into a thunderstorm it is called a cumulonimbus cloud.

Stratus clouds are low altitude grey clouds. They have a flat base and stretch or extend along the sky. You can see the best stratus clouds near the ocean looking like thick, woolen, cloud blankets. Light drizzle often falls from stratus clouds. When precipitation falls from stratus clouds they are then called nimbostratus.

Cirrus clouds are high altitude clouds and can form as high as 10km. They look thin and feathery. Cirrus clouds are the first clouds you see when a warm front is approaching. Thin cirrus clouds are sometimes referred to as 'mares tails' because they can look like the tail of a horse.

Draw cumulus, cirrus and stratus clouds below. Label them accordingly. Write in a fact box next to your drawing a simple explanation how clouds form and what energy is used to form them. Use the back of this work sheet if you don't have enough space.



What is nimbostratus cloud? _____

What is a cumulonimbus cloud? _____

What does precipitation mean? _____