**Clouds**  
 **What are clouds?**  
A cloud is a large collection of very **tiny droplets** of water or ice crystals. The droplets are so small and light that they can float in the air.

[](javascript:Start('stratus.jpg'))

**loudStratus Cloudsloud**  
**Stratus clouds** are uniform **grayish clouds that often cover the entire sky**. They resemble fog that doesn't reach the ground. Light mist or drizzle sometimes falls out of these clouds.

**[](javascript:Start('cirrus.jpg'))loudCirrus Cloudsloud**  
**Cirrus clouds** are the most common of the high clouds. They are **composed of ice and are thin, wispy clouds blown in high winds into long streamers. Cirrus clouds are usually white and predict fair to pleasant weather.** By watching the movement of cirrus clouds you can tell from which direction weather is approaching. When you see **cirrus clouds, it usually means that a change in the weather** will occur within 24 hours.

**[](javascript:Start('cumulus.jpg'))loudCumulus Cloudsloud**  
**Cumulus clouds** are white, puffy clouds that **look like pieces of floating cotton**. Cumulus clouds are often called **"fair-weather clouds".** The base of each cloud is flat and the top of each cloud has rounded towers. When the top of the cumulus clouds resemble the head of a cauliflower, it is called towering cumulus. These clouds grow **upward and they can develop into giant cumulonimbus clouds, which are thunderstorm clouds.**