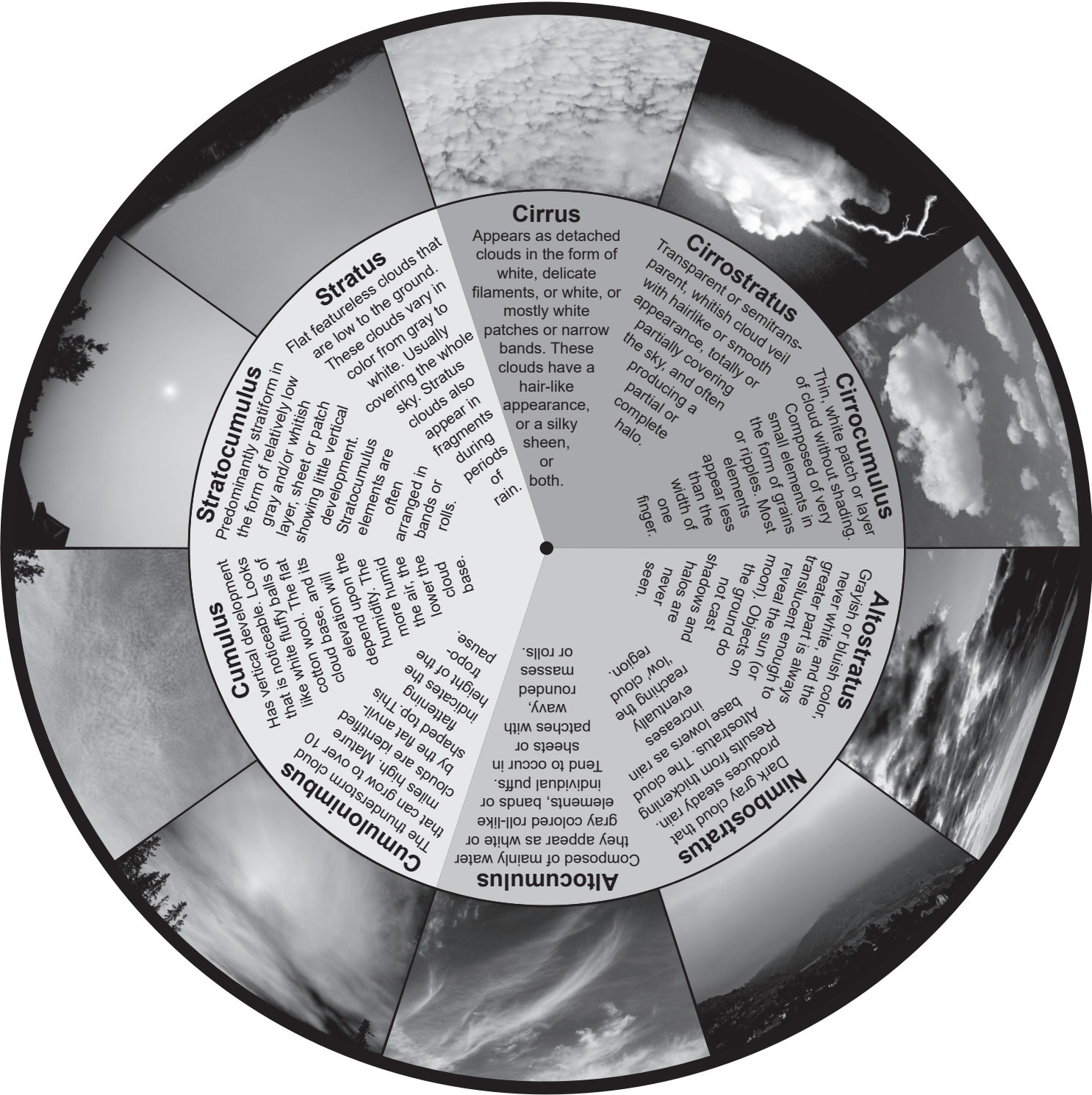


**Lesson plan: Head in the clouds.** Cut along dotted lines and make a small hole in the center of both wheels. Attach wheels together using a brass fastener. Record cloud observations onto a cloud observation form. Complete lesson plan and PDF versions of wheels/forms are located at...

[https://www.weather.gov/jetstream/ll\\_headclouds](https://www.weather.gov/jetstream/ll_headclouds)

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### Cirrus

Appears as detached clouds in the form of white, delicate filaments, or white, or mostly white patches or narrow bands. These clouds have a hair-like appearance, or a silky sheen, or both.

### Cirrostratus

Transparent or semitransparent, whitish cloud veil with hairlike or smooth appearance, totally or partially covering the sky, and often producing a partial or complete halo.

### Cirrocumulus

Thin, white patch or layer of cloud without shading. Composed of very small elements in the form of grains or ripples. Most appear less than the width of one finger.

### Altostratus

Grayish or bluish color, never white, and the greater part is always translucent enough to reveal the sun (or moon). Objects on the ground do not cast shadows and halos are never seen.

### Nimbostratus

Dark gray cloud that produces steady rain. Results from thickening base lowers as rain eventually reaches the low cloud region.

### Alto cumulus

Composed of mainly water they appear as white or gray colored roll-like elements, bands or sheets or rounded masses or rolls.

### Stratus

Flat featureless clouds that are low to the ground. These clouds vary in color from gray to white. Usually covering the whole sky. Stratus clouds also appear in fragments during periods of rain.

### Stratocumulus

Predominantly stratiform in the form of relatively low gray and/or whitish layer, sheet or patch showing little vertical development. Stratocumulus elements are often arranged in bands or rolls.

### Cumulus

Has vertical development that is noticeable to look like white fluffy towers or cotton wool. The flat top, and the elevation will depend upon the humidity. The more humid the air, the lower the cloud base.

### Cumulonimbus

The thunderstorm cloud that can grow to over 10 miles high. Mature clouds are identified by the flat anvil-shaped top. This flattening indicates the height of the topopause.

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Building a Weather-Ready Nation

