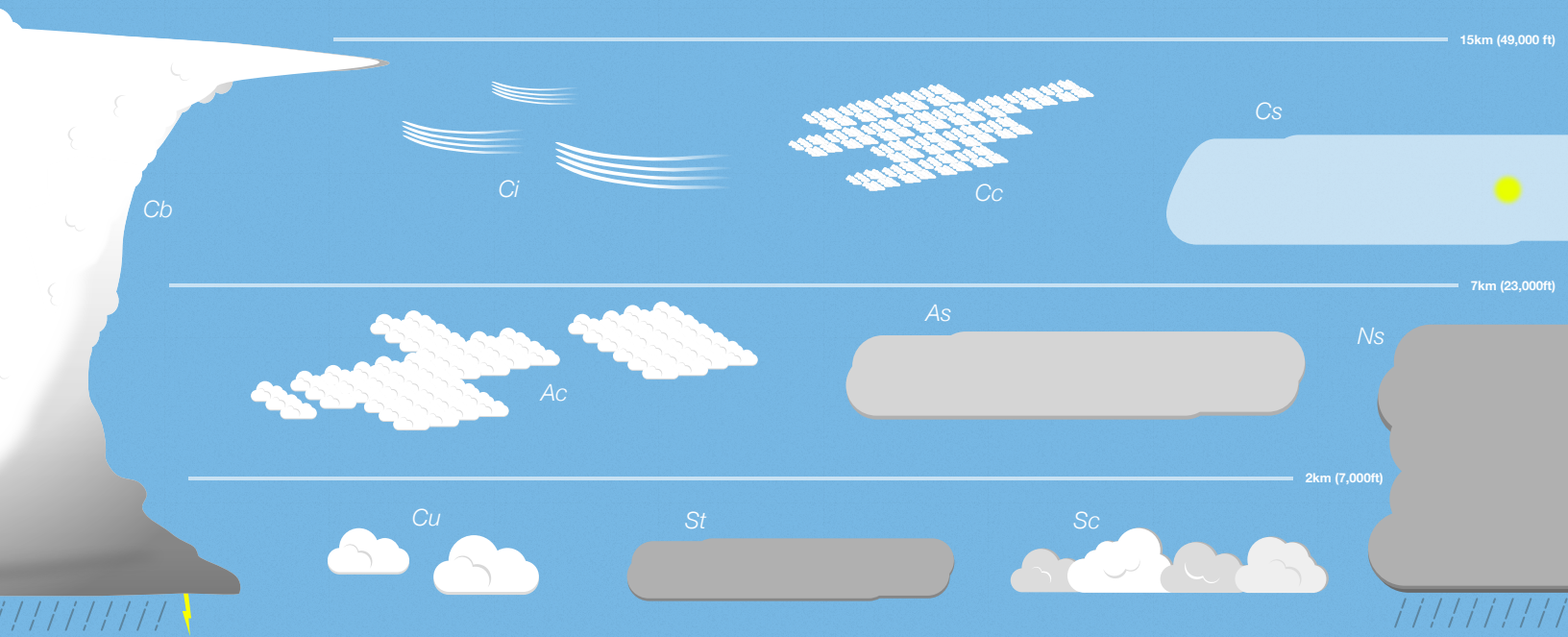


what's this cloud

CLOUD IDENTIFICATION CHART

CLOUD TYPE	LEVEL	SUMMARY	ALTITUDE RANGE (APPROX.)	DESCRIPTION	ABBR
Cirrus	High	High, wispy streaks	5–15km (16,000–49,000 ft)	High-altitude, thin, and wispy cloud streaks made of ice crystals	<i>Ci</i>
Cirrocumulus	High	High-altitude cloudlets	5–15km (16,000–49,000 ft)	Small, flakey, and white high-altitude cumulus patches	<i>Cc</i>
Cirrostratus	High	Pale, veil-like layer	6–13km (20,000–43,000 ft)	Thin, transparent, high-altitude layer capable of producing a halo	<i>Cs</i>
Alto cumulus	Middle	Mid-altitude heaps	2–7km (7,000–23,000 ft)	Middle-altitude cumuliform clouds arranged in heaps or rolls	<i>Ac</i>
Altostratus	Middle	Mid-altitude gray layer	2–7km (7,000–23,000 ft)	Featureless, gray layer cloud capable of masking the sun	<i>As</i>
Nimbostratus	Middle	Precipitation layer	0.5–5.5km (2,000–18,000 ft)	Dark and featureless layer cloud responsible for rain and snow	<i>Ns</i>
Cumulonimbus	Low	Thunderstorms	0.5–16 km (2,000–52,000 ft)	Dark-based storm cloud capable of impressive vertical growth	<i>Cb</i>
Cumulus	Low	Low, puffy, fair-weather	0.5–2 km (2,000–7,000 ft)	Low-altitude, fluffy heaps of clouds with cotton-like appearance	<i>Cu</i>
Stratus	Low	Low, featureless layer	0–2 km (0–7,000 ft)	Gray, featureless low-altitude cloud capable of ground contact	<i>St</i>
Stratocumulus	Low	Low, puffy layer	0.5–2 km (2,000–7,000 ft)	Thicker, dark gray, and somewhat conjoined heaps of clouds	<i>Sc</i>



NAME	LATIN	DESCRIPTION	ABBR	CIRRUS <i>Ci</i>	CIRRO-CUMULUS <i>Cc</i>	CIRRO-STRATUS <i>Cs</i>	ALTO-CUMULUS <i>Ac</i>	ALTO-STRATUS <i>As</i>	NIMBO-STRATUS <i>Ns</i>	CUMULO-NIMBUS <i>Cb</i>	CUMULUS <i>Cu</i>	STRATUS <i>St</i>	STRATO-CUMULUS <i>Sc</i>
CLOUD SPECIES													
Calvus	<i>Bald</i>	without cirriform, hairless	<i>cal</i>										
Capillatus	<i>Having Hair</i>	fibrous upper portion	<i>cap</i>										
Castellanus	<i>Castle</i>	rising towers, turrets	<i>cas</i>										
Congestus	<i>Piled Up</i>	vertical, taller than it is wide	<i>con</i>										
Fibratus	<i>Fibered</i>	fiberlike, hairlike	<i>fib</i>										
Floccus	<i>Lock of Wool</i>	puffy, ragged tufts	<i>flo</i>										
Fractus	<i>Broken</i>	ragged, broken up	<i>fra</i>										
Humilis	<i>Humble</i>	flattened, wider than it is tall	<i>hum</i>										
Lenticularis	<i>Lentil</i>	lens-shaped, resembling a UFO	<i>len</i>										
Mediocris	<i>Moderate</i>	medium height, tall as it is wide	<i>med</i>										
Nebulosus	<i>Nebulous</i>	full of vapor, lacking detail	<i>neb</i>										
Spissatus	<i>Thick</i>	packed tightly, dense	<i>spi</i>										
Stratiformis	<i>Layer Form</i>	horizontal, layer-like form	<i>str</i>										
Uncinus	<i>Hook</i>	curved, comma-shaped	<i>unc</i>										
Volutus	<i>Revolve</i>	tube-shaped roll cloud	<i>vol</i>										
CLOUD VARIETIES													
Duplicatus	<i>Double</i>	multilayered	<i>du</i>										
Intortus	<i>Contorted</i>	interlaced, entangled	<i>in</i>										
Lacunosus	<i>Full of Gaps</i>	perforated, round frayed holes	<i>la</i>										
Opacus	<i>Darkened</i>	opaque, masks the sun	<i>op</i>										
Perlucidus	<i>Pellucid</i>	transparent by small gaps	<i>pe</i>										
Radiatus	<i>Striped</i>	parallel bands and strips	<i>ra</i>										
Translucidus	<i>Transparent</i>	see-through, sun's position visible	<i>tr</i>										
Undulatus	<i>Undulated</i>	wavelike, undulating	<i>un</i>										
Vertebratus	<i>Jointed</i>	fishbone-like, resembling ribs	<i>ve</i>										
SUPPLEMENTARY FEATURES													
Arcus	<i>Arch</i>	shelf cloud, gust collar	<i>arc</i>										
Asperitas	<i>Harshness</i>	chaotic, wavy underneath	<i>asp</i>										
Cauda	<i>Tail</i>	tail cloud, attached to murus	<i>cau</i>										
Cavum	<i>Cavity</i>	fallstreak hole, hole punch	<i>cav</i>										
Fluctus	<i>Wave</i>	kelvin-helmholtz waves, curls	<i>flu</i>										
Incus	<i>Anvil</i>	anvil above a cumulonimbus	<i>inc</i>										
Mamma	<i>Breast</i>	sac-like, resembling cow udders	<i>mam</i>										
Murus	<i>Wall</i>	wall cloud, cloud lowering	<i>mur</i>										
Praecipitatio	<i>Fall</i>	precipitation reaching the surface	<i>pra</i>										
Tuba	<i>Tube</i>	funnel cloud, tornado	<i>tub</i>										
Virga	<i>Rod</i>	evaporating strips of precipitation	<i>vir</i>										
ACCESSORY CLOUDS													
Flumen	<i>River</i>	beaver tail, detached from murus	<i>flm</i>										
Pannus	<i>Rag</i>	ragged frazzles, scud	<i>pan</i>										
Pileus	<i>Cap</i>	cap or hood over a cumuliform	<i>pil</i>										
Velum	<i>Veil</i>	horizontal cloud veil	<i>vel</i>										
OTHER CLOUDS													
Cataractagenitus	<i>Waterfall</i>	waterfall condensation and spray	<i>cagen</i>										
Flammagenitus	<i>Flame</i>	pyrocumulus, caused from fire	<i>flgen</i>										
Homogenitus	<i>Human</i>	caused by human activity	<i>hogen</i>										
Homomutatus	<i>Human</i>	mutated from a homogenitus	<i>homut</i>										
Silvagenitus	<i>Forest</i>	evaporation from a forest	<i>sigen</i>										

LATIN TRANSLATIONS

Cirro-	<i>Curl</i>
Cumulo-	<i>Heap</i>
Strato-	<i>Layer</i>
Nimbo-	<i>Rain</i>
Alto-	<i>High</i>

SIX STEPS TO NAMING CLOUDS BY THEIR FULL NAME

1. Identify the cloud type (choose 1)
2. Identify a cloud species (choose up to 1)
3. Identify any cloud varieties (apply multiple if applicable)
4. Identify any supplementary features (apply multiple if applicable)
5. Identify any accessory clouds (apply multiple if applicable)
6. Identify any other clouds (apply multiple if applicable)

SHARE YOUR DISCOVERIES 🌩️

Join the conversation with other cloud fanatics! Show us your pictures of clouds and other weather phenomena on social media. [#WhatsThisCloud](#)

