



### Dichotomous Key: Cloud Types

1. Does the sky contain clouds?
  - a. Yes – go to #2
  - b. No – It is a clear day
2. Are the clouds low and do they look like puffy cotton balls? They mean fair weather.
  - a. Yes – Cumulous clouds
  - b. No – go to #3
3. Are the clouds low, light or gray, and cover the sky like a blanket? They may bring poor weather. It can also be called fog when it's low to the ground.
  - a. Yes – Stratus clouds
  - b. No – go to #4
4. Are the clouds low, irregular masses, rolling and/or puffy?
  - a. Yes – Stratocumulus clouds
  - b. No – go to #5
5. Are the clouds low and dark gray? It may be raining. The clouds may hide the sun.
  - a. Yes – Nimbostratus clouds
  - b. No – go to #6
6. Are the clouds low, large, and tall like a tower? It may be raining. It may be called a thunderstorm cloud.
  - a. Yes – Cumulonimbus clouds
  - b. No – go to #7
7. Are the clouds off-white or light gray and puffy like cotton balls with spaces between them?
  - a. Yes – Altocumulus clouds
  - b. No – go to #8
8. Are the clouds off-white or light gray? They may cover the whole sky.
  - a. Yes – Altostratus clouds
  - b. No – go to #9
9. Are the clouds high and feathery?
  - a. Yes – Cirrus clouds
  - b. No – go to #10
10. Are the clouds high, thin, and light gray or white? You may be able to see the sun or the moon through them.
  - a. Yes – Cirrostratus clouds
  - b. No – go to #11
11. Are the clouds high and puffy with spaces between them like waves?
  - a. Yes – Cirrocumulus clouds