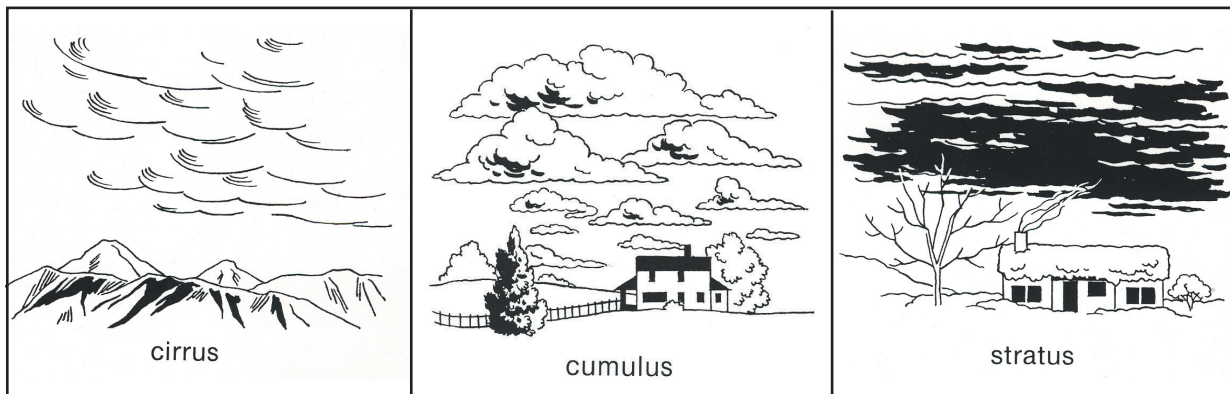Name _____

What Types of Clouds Can You Find in the Sky?

Scientists classify clouds into three main categories - stratus, cumulus, and status. In this activity you will observe and learn how to identify these three types of clouds and the type of weather they bring.

- **Stratus clouds** are low, flat, gray clouds that look like sheets covering the sky. They are the closest clouds to the ground. They form as low as surface level (fog) to about 6,500 feet above the ground. They can produce rain, drizzle, or mist.
- **Cumulus clouds** are puffy and white like cotton balls. They form from 2,000 to 20,000 feet above the ground. They usually indicate fair weather. Sometimes they grow very large and become thunderheads. As these clouds gather they create thunder and lightning and produce precipitation in the form of rain and hail.
- **Cirrus clouds** are thin, curly, wispy clouds. They are sometimes referred to as mares' tails. They form between 25,000 to 40,000 feet above the ground. They are so high in the atmosphere that the water droplets freeze into ice crystals. They often indicate an incoming storm or weather change.

cirrus

cumulus

stratus

Day	Cloud Type	% of Sky Covered	What the Weather is Like Today	Forecast for Tomorrow	What Changes Did You See?	Were You Correct?