

Nat Theo Club

FIELD NOTES

ISSUE #71



Clouds

WATER

FORMS

Clouds come in different forms and are named by their shapes. Cirrus clouds are wispy. Stratus clouds are low and continuous, like a blanket. Cumulus clouds resemble cotton balls.

FUN FACT

Even though clouds appear white, they are clear. Tiny cloud water droplets scatter sunlight in many directions. This is different from larger rain droplets that can act as a prism and form a rainbow. Did you know water could create so much art?

Wow!

HAVE YOU SEEN PICTURES IN THE SKY?

I love to look at clouds. They come in a wide range of shapes and sizes. I enjoy being creative and looking at the clouds to find things I recognize, like a dog or an elephant. I sometimes create scenarios or stories of cloud images playing together. As the clouds move, the images change, and sometimes the story continues, while at other times it ends. What shapes have you seen clouds make?

A couple of years ago, while I was flying home from Dallas, Texas, I saw the most impressive cloud formations I have ever seen. When I fly, I love to sit next to the window so that I can view the scenery below, see the sunrise or sunset, and watch the clouds. On this flight home, I got to see Cumulus congestus clouds. Cumulus clouds are characterized by their cotton ball-like appearance. Congestus describes a build-up of cumulus clouds (sounds like "congestion," which is common when you get a cold). Our plane flew through the giant white columns, and I was simply in awe. I took many pictures from my plane window to try to capture my experience in the clouds.

Cumulus congestus clouds can grow to be thunderstorm-producing Cumulonimbus clouds. Clouds are ever-changing. Sometimes, they grow, while other times, they lose moisture and shrink.

Psalms 148:3–4 says "Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars. Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies". This chapter in Psalms encourages not only the living but also the non-living things on Earth and in the Universe to praise God. Mountains, sea creatures, lightning, hail, trees, birds, older men and women, and children should all give praise to God. When you look up at the sky, see how the cloud formations give praise to God. How do you give praise to God?

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