## **Fun Facts for Older Primary Students**

# **Cloud Types**



### What are clouds?

There are usually quite a few clouds in the sky above Ireland. Some are small and some are big. Some are even fluffy.

Clouds come in many different colours. They can be white, grey, black or even red. Normally we can tell whether or not it's about to rain depending on the colour of the sky.

If we didn't have any clouds there would be no rain, hail, sleet or snow!

#### How are clouds made?

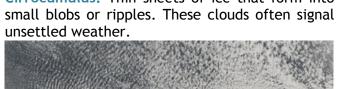
- Clouds form when moist air rises high up in the sky, cools and saturates.
- Moist water vapour condenses into tiny water droplets to form a cloud.
- Different clouds form depending on how the moist air rises.

#### What are the names of the different types of clouds?

Cirrus: High ice clouds that look like wispy curls Cirrocumulus: Thin sheets of ice that form into of hair.



Thin sheet of ice. Sometimes **Cirrostratus:** these clouds make a halo effect around the sun. When you see this effect it means that rain is approaching.





Altocumulus: Thin sheet of white or grey cloud, broken into blobs, rolls, waves or bands.





thickens then rain is likely.

Altostratus: Layer of thin, grey cloud, through which sunlight is often visible. If the cloud make rain and snow. "Nimbus" is the Latin word for rain.





form a regular pattern.

**Stratocumulus:** Layer of low cloud broken into Stratus: Low, grey blankets of cloud which rolls or patches. These types of clouds often sometimes produce light rain and drizzle.





Cumulus: Fluffy clouds with a flat base. The Cumulonimbus: Towering cumulus clouds often tops look like cotton wool. These are often seen indicate a thunderstorm is on the way! on sunny days.

