

Name _____

Cloud Classification by Altitude Answer Key

Altitude Level	Cloud Types	Description Clues
High (above 20,000 ft)	Cirrus (Ci)	Thin, wispy, ice-crystal clouds
	Cirrostratus (Cs)	Sheet-like, cover large areas, halo effect
	Cirrocumulus (Cc)	Puffy, small cotton tufts, very high up
Middle (6,500-20,000 ft)	Altostratus (As)	Gray/blue sheets, block some sunlight
	Alto cumulus (Ac)	Puffy, rounded masses
Low (surface-6,500 ft)	Stratus (St)	Gray layers, drizzle or mist
	Cumulus (Cu)	Puffy, fair-weather clouds
	Nimbostratus (Ns)	Dark, thick, rain clouds
Special Vertical Clouds	Cumulonimbus (Cb)	Thunderstorm clouds, can span all levels