

A FIELD CARD FROM AMPHIBIAN PUBLISHING

Cloud Spotter

Ten cloud genera · identify what you see overhead

Use this card outdoors. Match the sky to a genus, then note what weather follows.

CODE		GENUS	LEVEL	QUICK CUE
Ci		Cirrus	high clouds 5 to 13 km	Thin ice wisps; mares' tails
Cs		Cirrostratus	high clouds 5 to 13 km	Milky veil; often produces a halo
Cc		Cirrocumulus	high clouds 5 to 13 km	Tiny high ripples; mackerel sky
As		Altostratus	mid clouds 2 to 7 km	Grey sheet; sun as a dull disk
Ac		Alto cumulus	mid clouds 2 to 7 km	White or grey patches and rolls
Ns		Nimbostratus	mid clouds 0.5 to 5 km	Dark rain layer; steady precipitation
St		Stratus	low clouds 0 to 2 km	Featureless grey; fog-like
Sc		Stratocumulus	low clouds 0 to 2 km	Lumpy low layer; soft edges
Cu		Cumulus	low clouds 0.5 to 2 km base	Puffy cotton heaps; flat bases
Cb		Cumulonimbus	vertical development 0.5 to 18 km	Towering storm; anvil top

TODAY'S SKY

Date _____ Time _____

Place _____ Genus seen _____

Sky cover (oktas) _____ / 8 Wind and feel _____

Weather that followed _____

Written by a meteorologist and atmospheric scientist with a PhD.

Want the full field guide? The Cloud Journal · digital and printable editions on Etsy.

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