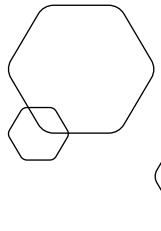
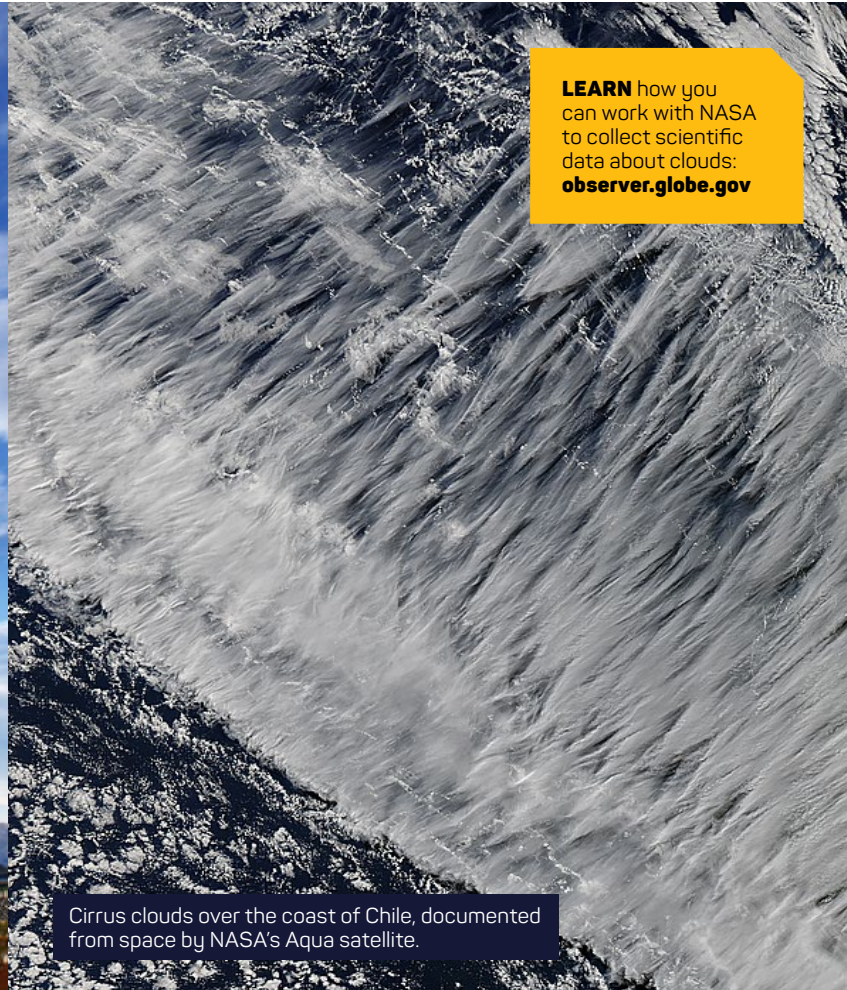


Observing Clouds

Scientists study clouds from space and from Earth.



Cirrus clouds over Argentina, photographed from Earth.

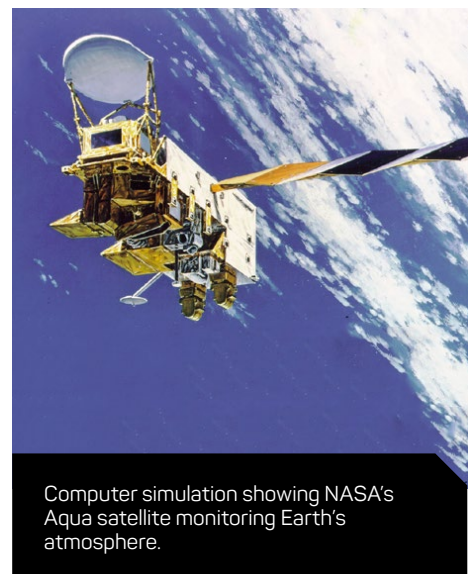


Cirrus clouds over the coast of Chile, documented from space by NASA's Aqua satellite.

LEARN how you can work with NASA to collect scientific data about clouds: observer.globe.gov

NASA satellites such as Aqua, CALIPSO, and GEO-CAPE orbit Earth and use powerful instruments to collect information about clouds, dust particles, and severe weather patterns. But satellites can't do all the work! NASA also uses instruments on the ground to look up into the atmosphere, gathering another set of data to compare to satellite observations.

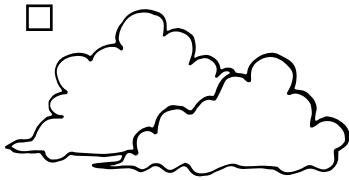
Citizen scientists across the US can participate in cloud research at home, at school, and in the community. Using the GLOBE Observer app, people can collect data about clouds and share it with scientists who work in collaboration with NASA. Together, citizens and scientists are doing important research that helps us predict daily weather and understand our planet's changing climate.



Computer simulation showing NASA's Aqua satellite monitoring Earth's atmosphere.

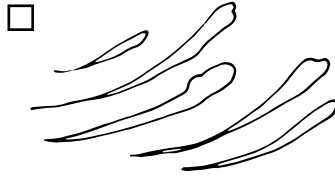
INVESTIGATE THE SKY TODAY!

1. What shape clouds do you see in the sky right now?



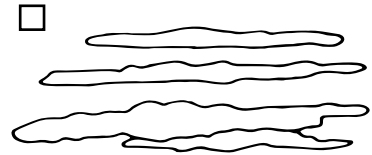
Cumulus

Heaped and puffy, clear edges



Cirrus

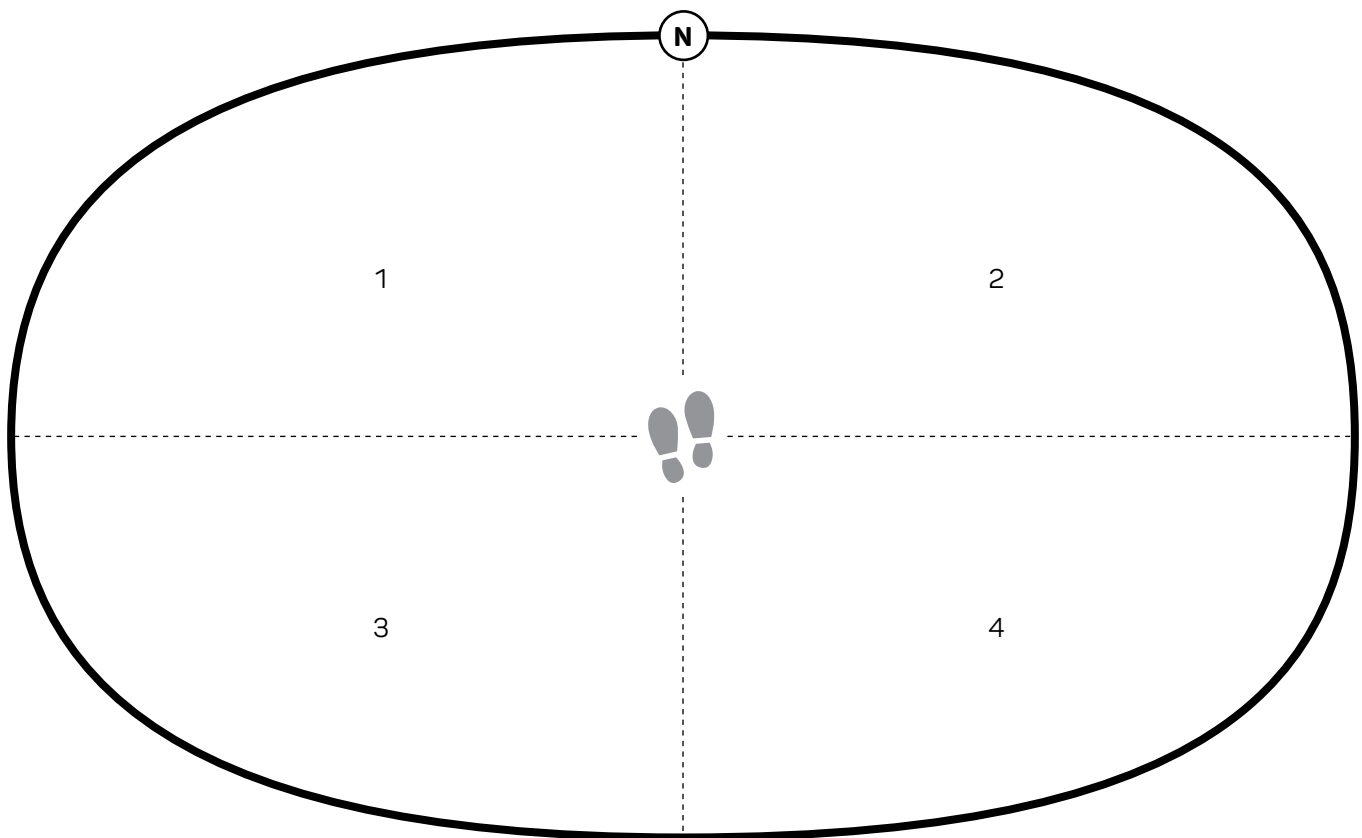
Thin, wispy



Stratus

Layered, sheet-like

2. Now try drawing all the clouds you can see. The sky is big. To make an accurate observation, it is helpful to orient yourself north, divide the sky into quadrants, and sketch what you see in each one. No clouds today? That's real data, too; so make a note.



3. How full is the sky today? Can you estimate cloud cover?

