

SPECIAL ED

# TYPES OF CLOUDS



INCLUDES GOOGLE SLIDES



*This unit was created with this guy in mind. He has autism and an intellectual disability. He is a non-reader, and loves the sound of piano keys. With some support he is able to do this unit, and enjoys the challenge. He is my tester!!*

# Clouds Unit for Special Education

By  
Christa Joy  
Special Needs for Special Kids



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Also included in this resource as separate files:

- Lesson plans
- Links and directions to digital activities
- PowerPoint (**this is the book in the lesson plan**)
- Voice recorded PowerPoint
- Activities in black and white

This unit contains almost 150 pages of material. I have included a detailed lesson plan to help you make the most of everything in this unit including how to add some group activities.

# Types of Clouds Unit Lesson Plan

## Preparation

- Print out a vocabulary board for each student to use throughout unit
  - Laminate or place in page protector
- Book
  - Print out, laminate, and bind
  - OR your students can listen to the pre-recorded version
- Vocabulary cards
  - Print out a set of cards onto cardstock and laminate
  - Make one set for each student and one for the teacher to use in various games

## Preassessment (do day 1 before starting lesson)

- Choose the form of the assessment that best fits the learning level of your students
- Give the assessment to assess what your students may already know
- I cannot emphasize enough how important this step is. If you want to see growth, this preassessment is so important!!

## Teaching Tips

- *Color Coding:* this is a really easy way to add more structure to a matching activity. Outline or color in an empty box or sorting label. Outline or color in the corresponding picture symbols the same colors. Becomes a color matching task.
  - a. For more info, read more here:  
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2015/09/05/using-color-coding-for-differentiation/>
  - b. I also have a blog post on differentiating one activity 3 ways:  
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2018/10/22/differentiating-1-activity-3-ways-easily-and-effectively/>
- *Make your own copies of the activities:* Every day I review the activity we did yesterday. For that reason:
  - a. I often complete the activity myself and often laminated it for easy review that I could use year after year.
  - b. My copies were also helpful as either a model for students who needed more support or as a way for more advanced students to self-check their work.

The lesson plans contain:

Overall tips for teaching  
students with significant  
needs

## Quick Look

Day	Activity
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards introduction</li><li>• Circle map</li></ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards activity</li><li>• Sorting activity</li></ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards activity</li><li>• Sorting activity</li></ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards activity</li><li>• Shapes in the clouds</li></ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab activity</li><li>• Writing prompt</li></ul>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards cut and paste</li><li>• Close worksheet</li></ul>
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocab cards cut and paste</li><li>• Close worksheets</li></ul>
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assessment</li></ul>

*The lesson plans contain:*

*A quick look at what you will do each day*

## Day 5

Activity	Notes	Materials
Read or listen to a recording of the book (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read through the story, asking lots of questions</li><li>• Continue to make connections between book and vocabulary board</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocabulary board</li></ul>
Vocabulary cards <b>Bean Bag Toss</b> (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Glue the cut apart symbols to the paper plates (one on each plate)</li><li>• Arrange them around the room</li><li>• Students toss the bean bag trying to get it to land on a paper plate</li><li>• Students retrieve the paper plate and share the vocabulary card they retrieved</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vocabulary cards</li><li>• Vocabulary cards cut apart</li><li>• Small paper plates or pieces of construction paper</li><li>• Bean bags</li></ul>
Writing prompt (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete the writing prompt about what students see in the clouds</li><li>• These are errorless</li><li>• Can make more than one story</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Writing prompt</li><li>• Scissors</li><li>• Glue</li></ul>
Sharing (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each student shares their finished story</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Completed activity</li><li>• Communication devices</li></ul>

The lesson plans contain:

Detailed instructions on how that day's lesson should run

This unit comes with a vocabulary board.

Vocabulary boards are great for ALL students to assist with participation and engagement in group discussions.

Tips on how to use in the unit!!



**Cumulus clouds** are those big puffy white clouds that look like big cotton balls in the sky.



©Christa Joy, SNSK

**Cirrus clouds** are thin and **wispy** clouds. They sit very, very high in the sky.



©Christa Joy, SNSK

*There is a book with this unit using simple text and photos. It is 37 pages and is an overview of the different types of clouds.*

*It comes in a PowerPoint version as well as a voice-recorded PowerPoint (so you don't have to print it out.) There is also a movie version you can use in google slides.*



### clouds

Water droplets that have come together and frozen into ice crystals. Appear as white objects in the sky.



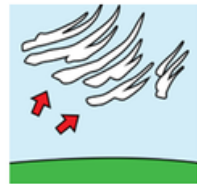
### Cumulus clouds

Puffy white clouds that indicate nice weather.



### Cirrus clouds

High, wispy clouds that indicate the weather is going to change in the next day or two.



### Stratus clouds

Flat sheets of gray clouds that bring rain and snow.



### fog

Stratus cloud that is so full of water it settles down to Earth. It is hard to see through.



### contrails

The white streams you see in the sky behind an airplane.



### Green clouds

Stratus clouds that look greenish and indicated severe weather is coming.



### evaporate

Water on the Earth that turn to vapor and goes into the sky to form clouds.



There are 12 vocabulary cards that come in color and black and white.

Included are suggestions for group activities to do with these each day.

### fog

Stratus cloud that is so full of water it settles down to Earth. It is hard to see through.



### contrails

The white streams you see in the sky behind an airplane.



### Green clouds

Stratus clouds that look greenish and indicated severe weather is coming.



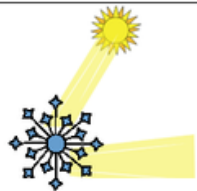
### evaporate

Water on the Earth that turn to vapor and goes into the sky to form clouds.



There is an activity where students will match either the picture to the definition or the definition to the picture (harder).

### reflect



### weather



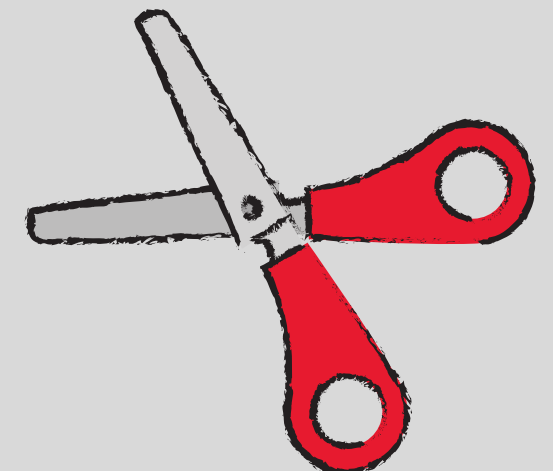
### wispy



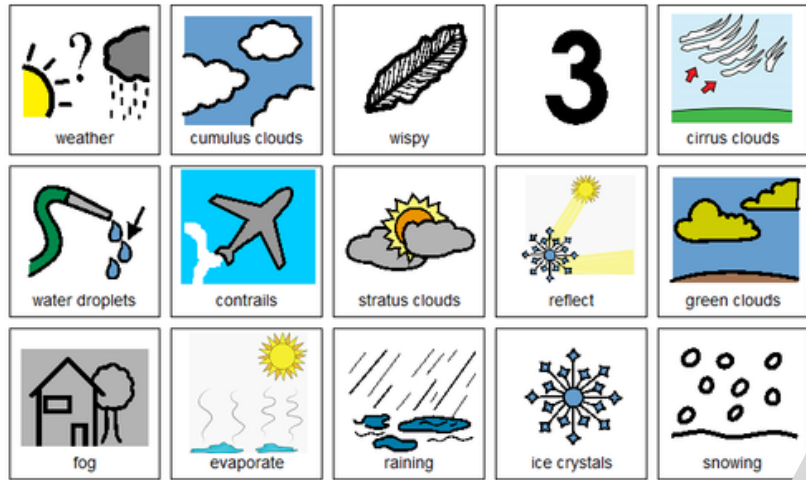
### tornado



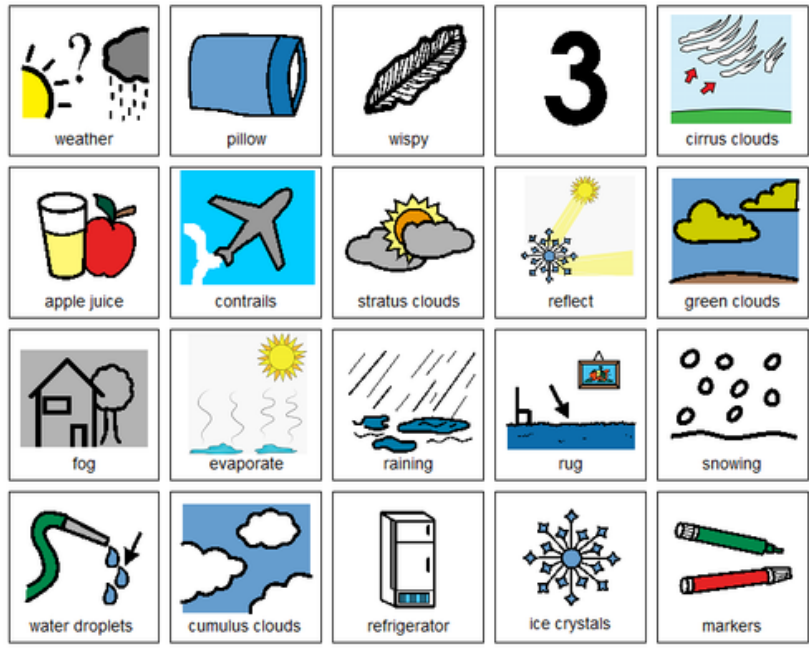
The white streams you see in the sky behind an airplane.	Water droplets in the sky to
Puffy white clouds that indicate nice weather.	Thin and
Sunny days, rain, or snow that can be predicted by looking at the clouds.	Water droplets come together and into ice crystals. A white objects in the
Flat sheets of gray clouds that bring rain and snow.	Sunlight bounces off the crystals in the cloud, and makes the cloud looks w



Cut apart pictures and place in circle map about the atmosphere.



Cut apart pictures and place in circle map **ONLY IF** they relate to clouds.

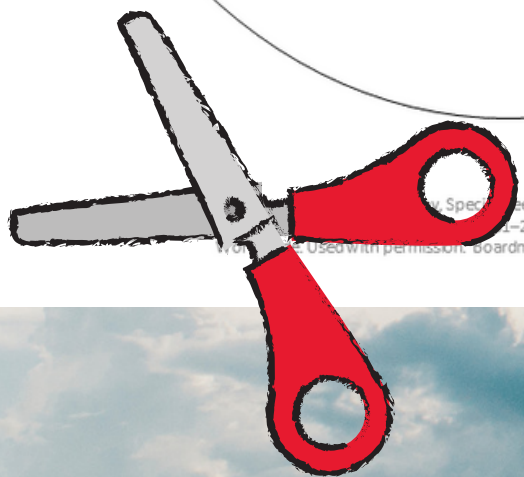


There is a circle map reviewing facts from the book about clouds.

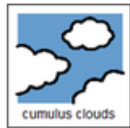
Circle maps are a great way for students to see the concept at a glance.

There are 2 versions:

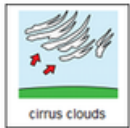
- One is errorless
- One has wrong answers mixed in students will have to set aside



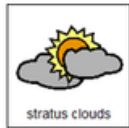
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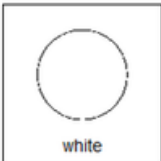
cumulus clouds



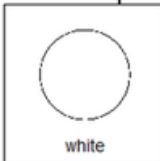
cirrus clouds



stratus clouds



white



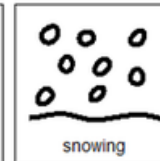
white



gray



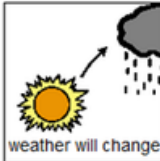
raining



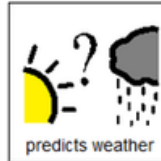
snowing



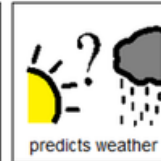
perfect weather



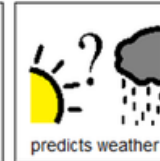
weather will change



predicts weather



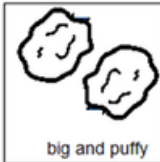
predicts weather



predicts weather



stormy



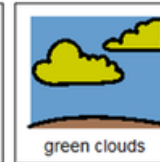
big and puffy



wispy



fog



green clouds

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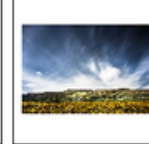
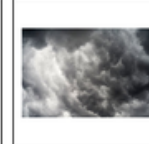
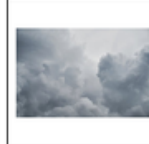
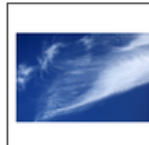
cumulus clouds



cirrus clouds



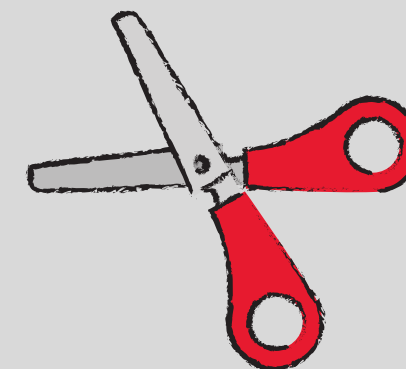
stratus clouds




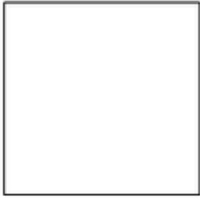

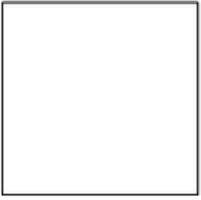

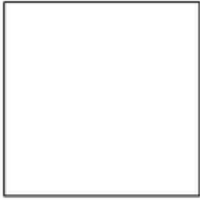

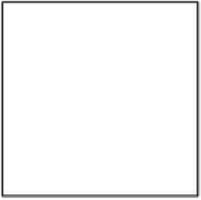

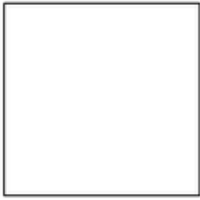

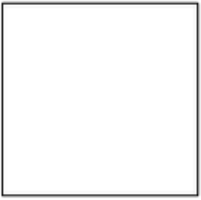

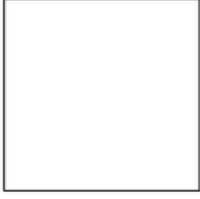


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There are sorting activities using either photos or picture symbols. Suggestions for differentiation are included.



Have you ever spent time looking for shapes in the clouds. Remember, those are **cumulus clouds**. Match the picture on the next page to the cloud shape below.

Match the picture to the shape of the cloud on the previous page.

There is fun activity looking at shapes you see in the clouds.



# Looking in the Sky

Draw a picture of what the clouds look like you see in the sky.



1. As I look into the sky, I see



2. The weather is



3. I am wearing



4. The clouds look like a



Have students pick one or more pictures for each question to complete the writing prompt on the previous page. They could also come up with their own answers!

1	a storm	stratus clouds	cumulus clouds	cirrus clouds	birds	airplane
2	hot	freezing	windy	raining	snowing	perfect
3	sunglasses	jacket	rain boots	mittens	shorts	sweater
4	bunny	castle	dragon	guinea pig	panda	Frisbee
	volcano	cotton candy	sumo wrestler	gray	white	green

There is a writing prompt in this unit. Students will write a story about what they see in the sky. This is an errorless activity.

# Clouds

	weather		stratus	cumulus	cirrus
			cirrus		contrails
contrails	cirrus	weather	cumulus		stratus
	fog			cirrus	weather
cirrus		cumulus		contrails	fog
	contrails		fog	stratus	

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# Contrails

	stratus	cumulus	
fog			
	cirrus	fog	
stratus	fog		cumulus

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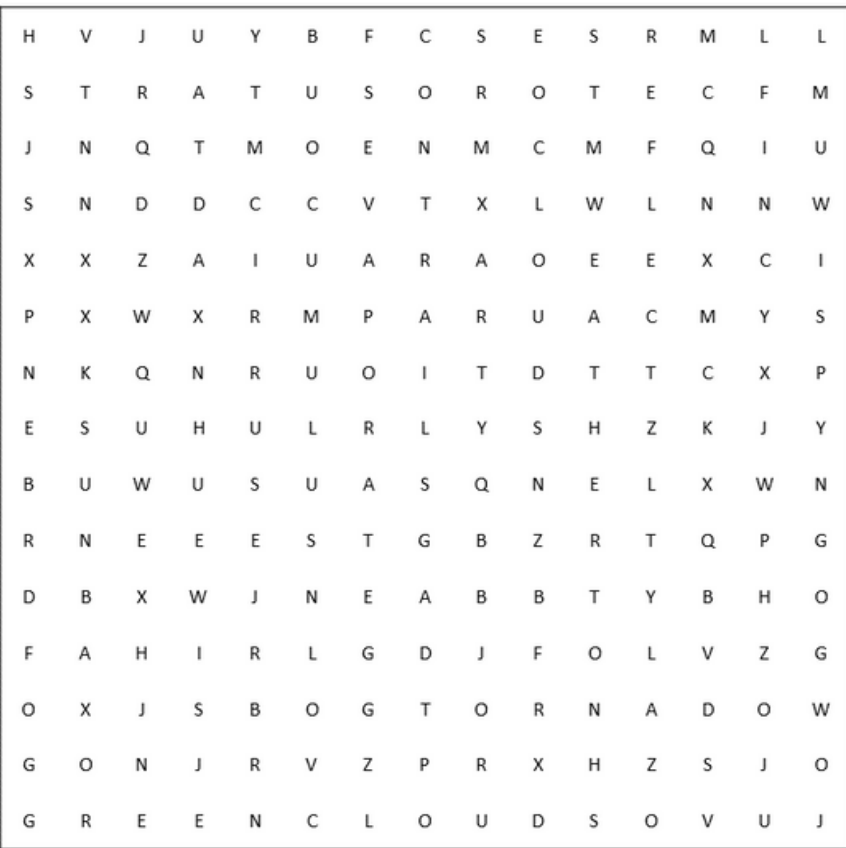
Place the following images in the empty squares on the previous page, completing the sudoku puzzle.

cumulus	cumulus	cumulus	cirrus	stratus
stratus	stratus	fog	fog	fog
contrails	contrails	weather	weather	weather

There is a Sudoku puzzle in this unit as well. This is a great way to work with the new vocabulary!!

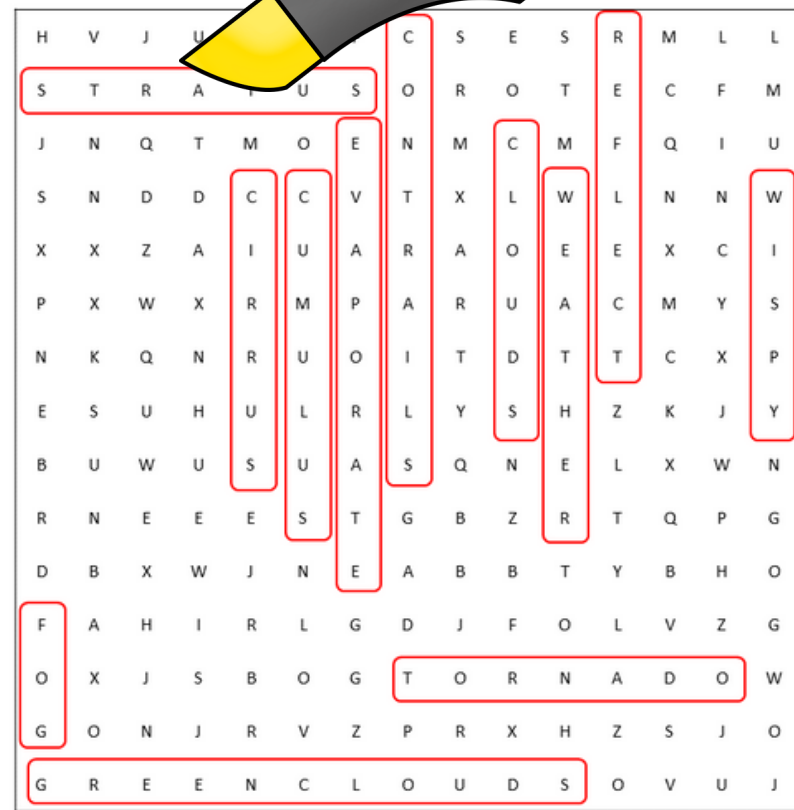
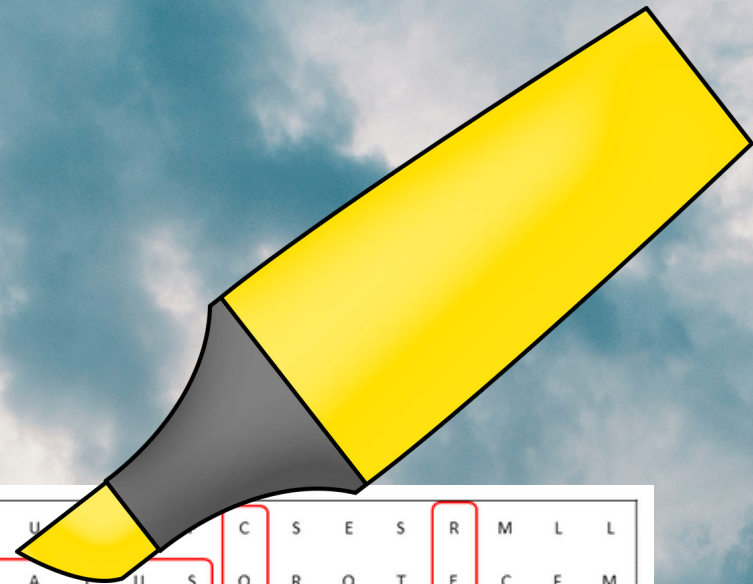
There are 2 versions plus answer keys.





stratus	evaporate	cumulus
reflect	contrails	fog
clouds	cirrus	tornado
green clouds	weather	wispy

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stratus	evaporate	cumulus
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green clouds	weather	wispy

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There is also a word search to work with vocabulary. If your students cannot do a word search, have them highlight the circle words on the answer key.



# Clouds

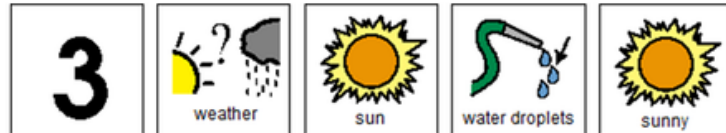
1. Clouds are one way to predict the .

2. The  reflects off the ice crystals in the cloud, making them look white.

3. There are  main types of clouds.

4. Clouds are actually made up of  that freeze.

5. We see cumulus clouds on a  day.



# Clouds

6. If you see clouds that are  you should prepare for really bad weather.

7.  is a type of cloud that stays on the ground.

8. Big, gray stratus clouds often bring  or .

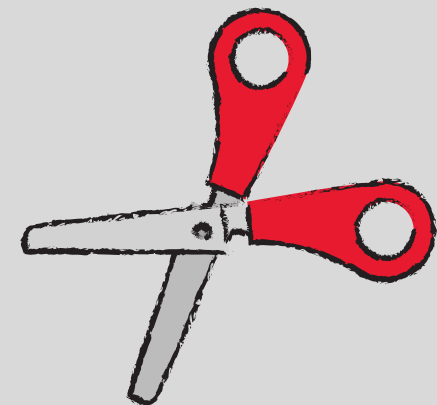
9. When weather is getting ready to change, you will see .

10. Contrails are not really clouds but exhaust that comes from .

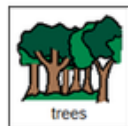


Close worksheets are a great informal assessment. There are 2 worksheets that cover the facts covered in the book.

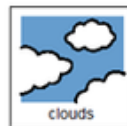
Answer key included.



1. When the weather is getting ready to change, look at:



trees



clouds



stars

2. Circle all the types of clouds you may see:



cumulus clouds



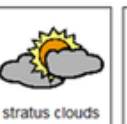
cirrus clouds



smoke



fog



stratus clouds



contrails

3. Clouds are white because the sun reflects off of:



ice crystals



mirror



sunglasses

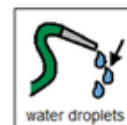
4. Clouds are mainly made up of:



cotton candy

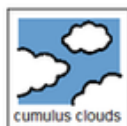


smoke

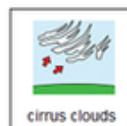


water droplets

5. When the weather is getting ready to change, you may see these type of clouds high in the sky.



cumulus clouds



cirrus clouds



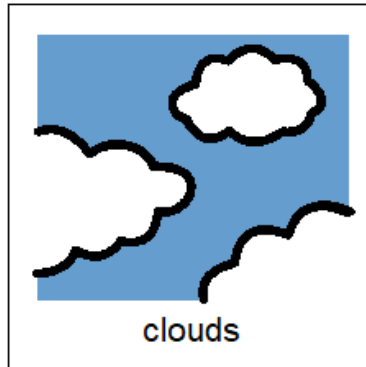
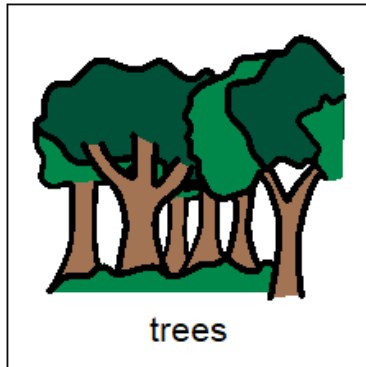
storm clouds

FINALLY the assessment!! There are 3 versions. This version has 10 questions with 3 picture choices for each question.

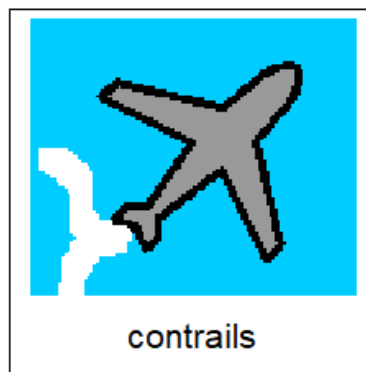
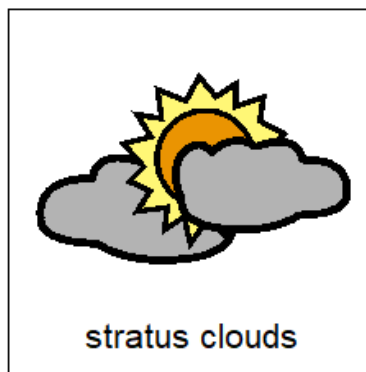
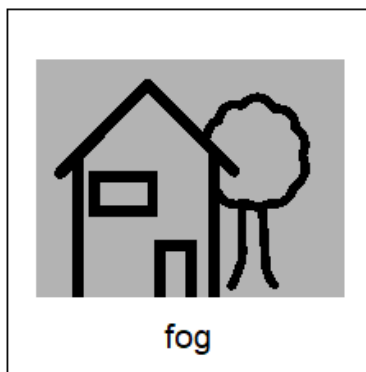
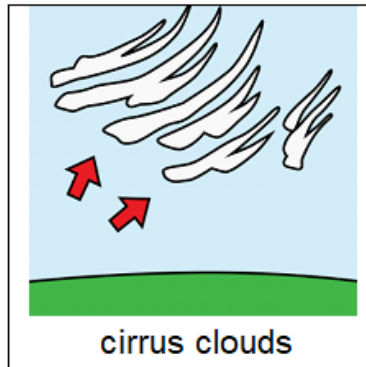
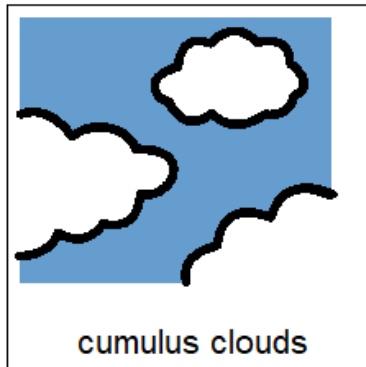
Answer key included.

Print onto cardstock or mount on index cards. Cut pictures apart and show student answer choices for each question.

Q 1



Q 2



With this version, you cut out the answer choices and glue them on index cards. Ask the student the question, and they point to the correct answer.

1. When the weather is getting ready to change, look at:
  - A. Trees
  - B. Clouds
  - C. Stars
2. Circle all the types of clouds you may see:
  - A. Cumulus clouds
  - B. Cirrus clouds
  - C. Smoke
  - D. Fog
  - E. Stratus clouds
  - f. Contrails
3. Clouds are white because the sun reflects off of:
  - A. Ice crystals
  - B. Mirror
  - C. sunglasses
4. Clouds are mainly made up of:
  - A. Cotton candy
  - B. Smoke
  - C. Water droplets
5. When the weather is getting ready to change, you may see these type of clouds high in the sky.
  - A. Cumulus clouds
  - B. Cirrus clouds
  - C. Storm clouds
6. On a beautiful sunny day you will see these clouds:
  - A. Fog
  - B. Cumulus clouds
  - C. Tornado

*This is your traditional multiple choice version. It can also be used as a recording sheet if your students are using the version with index cards.*

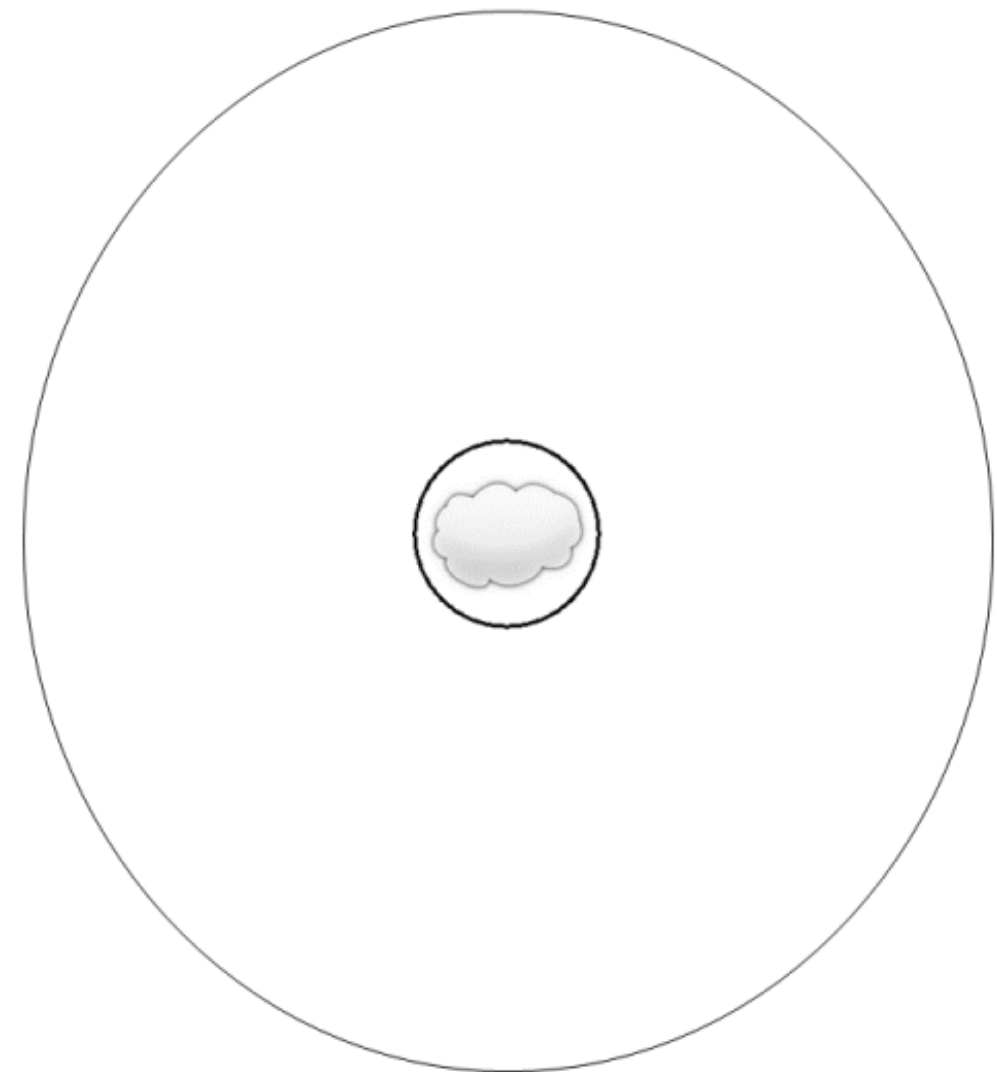
Watch the  
movie on  
Types of  
Clouds

Because they are so high in the sky, they are almost totally made up of ice crystals because it is so cold high up in the sky.



Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids

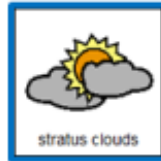
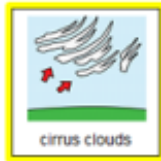
*This unit also has digital activities. There is a movie version of the books students can listen to read aloud.*



Place the picture in the circle map about clouds.



The digital activities have students click and drag their answers.



Sort the photos of each type cloud into the correct column. If you are not sure, leave it on this side.



There are 2 sets of slides. One set has color-coding for more support.

***This resource comes in a zipped folder. You will need to unzip the folder to access all the contents which include:***

- ***8 days of lesson plans***
- ***Cloud activities in color***
- ***Cloud activities in black and white***
- ***Voice-recorded PowerPoint shows***
- ***Types of Clouds book (PowerPoint) to use with activities***
- ***Links and directions to digital activities***