



# Classifying Clouds Through Inquiry

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## 1. GO OUT WITH GLOBE OBSERVER

Students can download NASA's GLOBE Observer application on any personal device! Begin by taking the students outside and allowing them to upload pictures of the clouds in their location to the GLOBE Observer database.



## 2. COMPARE WITH SATELLITE IMAGES

Have your students compare their cloud images to the satellite images of clouds within NASA's GLOBE database. The students should use a cloud classification chart to label each of the images with their specific cloud types (cirrus, stratus, cumulonimbus, and cumulus).



## 3. GIVE THE FACTS

Foster a whole-class discussion with visuals to teach your students about the different types of clouds and their respective formations. Answer questions as they arise, as cloud classification can be subjective.



#### 4. CREATIVE EXPRESSION

To express what they learned, have the students create posters or infographics. Visual representations should include each of the different cloud types as well as an image to depict what it looks like in nature.

Cirrus Clouds



Stratus Clouds



Cumulonimbus Clouds



Cumulus Clouds



Remember to modify this lesson for students on IEP or 504 plans. In addition, make sure that you are participating in the activities so that you can learn along with your students and answer any questions they may have.

NASA GLOBE Observer: "GLOBE Observer." GLOBE.gov, [observer.globe.gov/do-globe-observer/clouds](https://observer.globe.gov/do-globe-observer/clouds).