Name _____

Cloudy with a Chance of Understanding: How Clouds Form and Predict Weather

Short Answer Key

1. Cloud formation begins with rising air, which cools as it ascends. Cooling air can't hold as much moisture, causing water vapor to condense into tiny droplets or ice crystals, forming clouds.
2. Cirrus clouds are wispy and high-altitude clouds that usually signal fair weather. They differ from cumulonimbus clouds, which are massive and associated with severe weather events.
3. Nimbostratus clouds are thick, gray clouds that bring steady and prolonged rain or snowfall.
4. Meteorologists use cloud types to make predictions about upcoming weather conditions. Different cloud types provide clues about temperature, humidity, and atmospheric stability, helping forecasters anticipate changes in the weather.
5. Cumulus clouds can be observed on fair weather days and may signal the potential for thunderstorms when they grow taller and develop into cumulonimbus clouds.

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