



# Cloud Triangle

Learners will construct a cloud triangle with each material representing the corresponding cloud type. Learners will describe clouds in their own words and will then correlate their descriptions with the standard classifications of cloud types used by GLOBE.

## Purpose

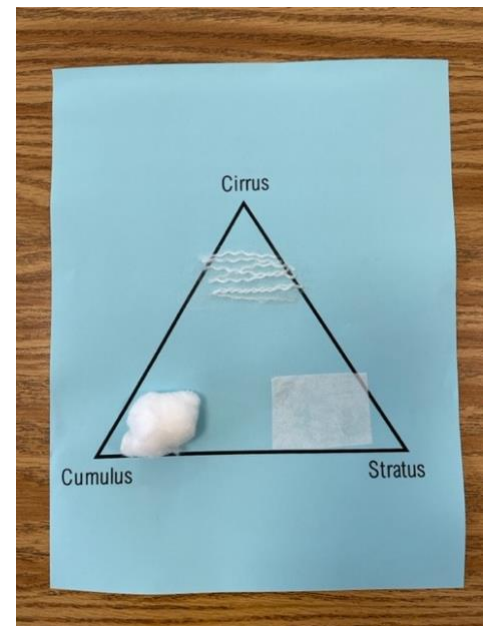
- To help young learners observe the three main type of cloud: **cirrus, cumulus, and stratus**.
- To have learners describe the three main types of clouds using their own words.
- To use craft materials to demonstrate the three main types of clouds

## Time

15 Minutes

## Materials

- [Do You Know That Clouds Have Names? Elementary GLOBE Book](#)
- [GLOBE Cloud Chart](#)
- Triangle Graphic (copy on blue paper, with or without names of three basic types of clouds)
- Cotton Balls
- Tissue Paper
- Glue
- Yarn



## Safety

Instructors should ensure that all tools and materials are used appropriately and safely (scissors, glue, etc.).

## What to Do

## Preparation

1. Read pages 1-12 of the Elementary GLOBE storybook [Do You Know That Clouds Have Names?](#)
2. Show learners the 3 basic cloud types on the [GLOBE Cloud Identification Chart](#).
3. Make examples of the different types of clouds with the same materials the learners will use. Having visual examples will help the learners with this activity.

## Activity

---

1. Discuss the three basic types of clouds and what they look like in the sky.
2. Give each learner a cotton ball, a 3” piece of yarn and a 2” square piece of tissue paper.
3. Discuss what type of cloud they think each item represents.
4. Next have them glue their samples beside the corresponding cloud name on their triangle graphic.
5. Once all groups have completed these tasks, have each learner share their cloud triangle. Keep the cloud triangles available to use as a resource every day when making cloud observations.

## Questions for Review

---

1. Can you name two clouds that are found low in the sky and one that is found high in the sky?
2. Which cloud is fluffy? Wispy and may have a tail? Looks like a blanket?

## Key Words

---

### Low Clouds

---

**Stratus:** A low cloud that looks like a gray blanket covering the sky

**Cumulus:** A low cloud that looks like big puffy cotton balls or cauliflower

### High Clouds

---

**Cirrus:** High clouds that look feathery or like horse tails floating in the sky

### Other

---

**Precipitation:** Rain, snow, sleet, or hail that falls to the ground

## Extensions

---

Younger learners can act out the traits of the different cloud types. Provide fabric, cotton, gauze, and other props for the learners to use. Younger learners might like to make individual clouds on their own small pieces of blue paper. They can add them to the class cloudscape or bring them home.

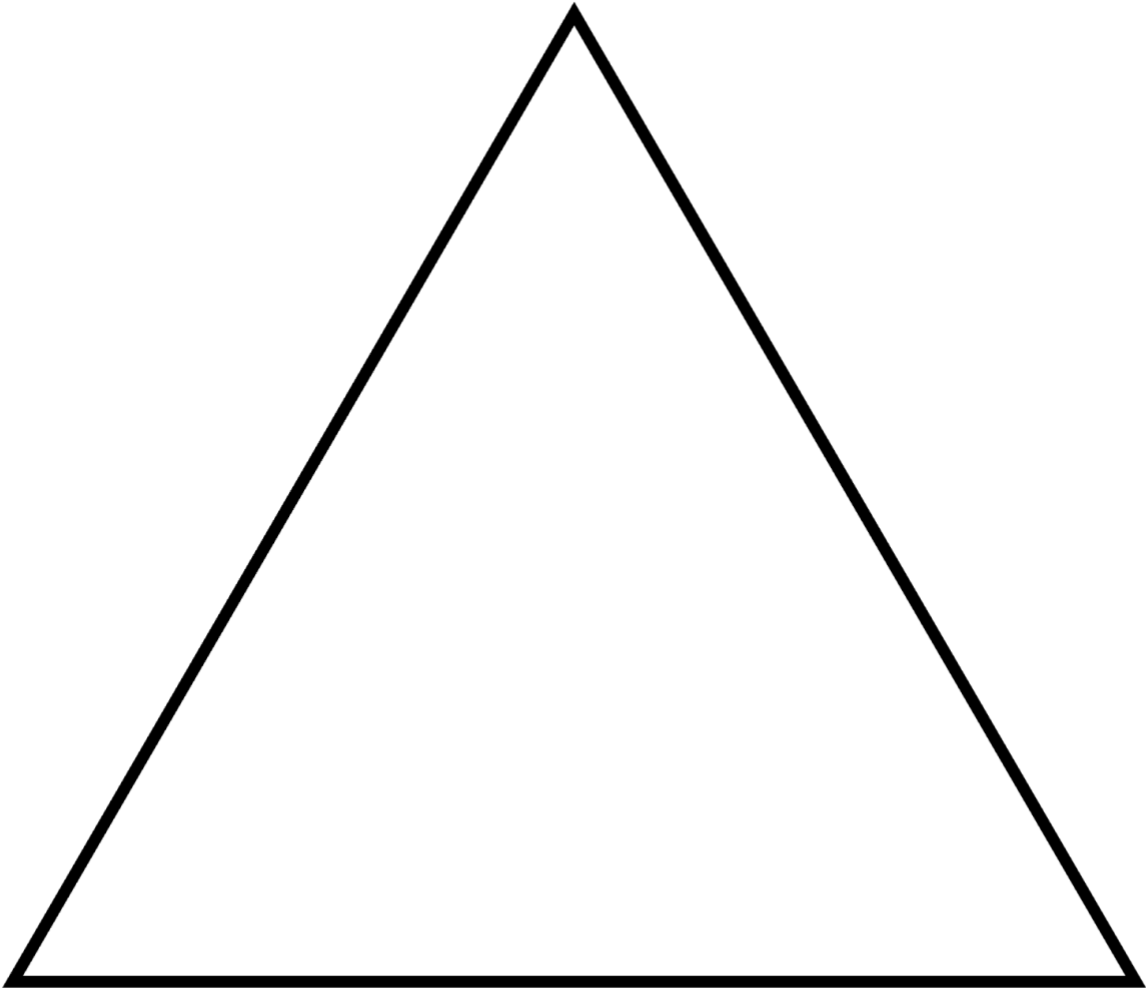
---

## Acknowledgements

---

This resource was adapted by the NASA Earth Science Education Collaborative (NASA award NNX16AE28A) for GLOBE Goes to Camp. It is based on an activity created by NASA Langley Research Center.

**Cirrus**



**Cumulus**

**Stratus**