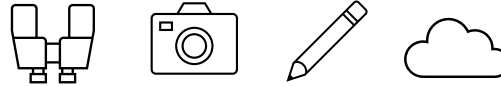


Cloud Watching Activities

Resources

- Camera
- Binoculars
- Drawing paper and pencils
- Cloud spotter wheel



Safety Warning:

Children and adults should be made aware that they should never look directly at the sun with or without binoculars

Cloud watching is an activity that can be enjoyed throughout the EYFS, KS1 and KS2 phases.

It is a good way of engaging children and adults in a mindfulness activity. Just lying on the ground watching the clouds drift across the sky has a calming effect and provides scope for a range of creative writing opportunities.

EYFS

Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter.

KS1 - Seasonal changes

Pupils should be taught to:

- observe changes across the 4 seasons
- observe and describe weather associated with the seasons and how day length varies

KS2 - States of matter

Pupils should be taught to:

- identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and associate the rate of evaporation with temperature

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Cloud Spotting

Ask the children to lie on their backs, making themselves comfortable.

Ask them to spend 5 minutes just watching the clouds move across the sky without speaking.

After 5 minutes ask them to say how watching the clouds made them feel.

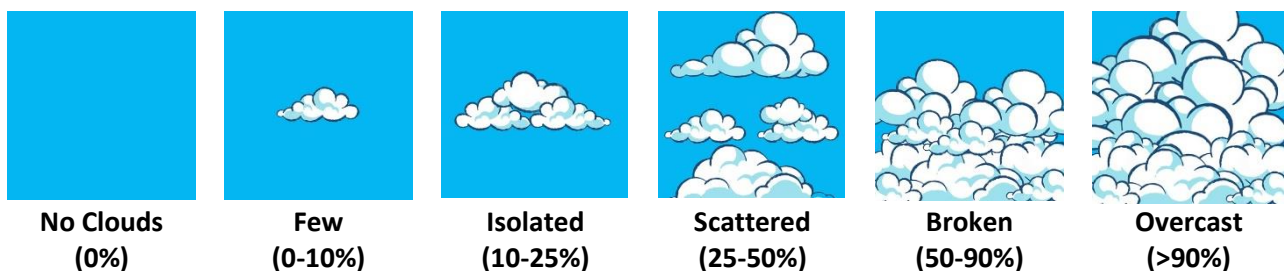
Ask them to watch the clouds again, this time with a partner. Encourage them to discuss the shape of the cloud; how they are moving across the sky; the colour. Can they see clouds that resemble the shape of something else?

Now ask them to observe the clouds using their binoculars. Do they notice any different features of the clouds. NOTE: this type of observation is best performed when the Sun is not shining brightly. Autumn and winter are good times for this kind of observation when the Sun is low down in the sky.

Using the cloud spotter wheel, identify the types of cloud seen. Allow time for further investigation into cloud types and weather.

Make a prediction as to the percentage of cloud cover in the sky. Use the chart below to make a more accurate estimate.

Cloud cover percentage:



Some useful resources to aid your teaching about weather and the water cycle

<https://www.tts-group.co.uk/soft-fabric-weather-hand-puppets-7pk/1005140.html>

<https://www.tts-group.co.uk/water-cycle-simulator/1003708.html>