

How to create clouds: a cloudy lesson

Have you ever wondered how clouds are really formed? Perhaps you've looked up to the sky on a fine day and spotted clouds of different shapes and sizes and pondered upon their creation? Creating clouds takes concentration, flair and imagination, so follow these instructions carefully.

What you will need:

a large wooden platform, a harness, a variety of metal, magic cloud wands of different shapes and sizes, a large box or container, warm clothes

What to do:

Your teacher may have told you that clouds are formed by the transformation of invisible water vapour into visible water droplets by a process known as condensation. However, the real secret behind the creation of clouds is much more interesting!

First, erect a stable, wooden platform that reaches high into the sky. A ladder should be placed against this skyscraper of a building for easy access.

Next, carefully climb the ladder, ensuring that you have all the required equipment with you. A safety harness may come in handy if you are frightened of heights.

After you have reached the top of the platform, wrap up warm! Lower pressure causes the temperature to drop, so it is colder the higher up you go. Make sure you take with you a hat, a scarf and gloves.

Open up your large container, full of the metal, magic cloud wands and choose the shape and size you would like. This is the most important piece of equipment you will need for the production of clouds. Screw the wand tightly into the platform so it stands upright.

Finally, take a deep breath, pull your shoulders back and breathe slowly through the magic cloud wand. A beautiful cloud should emerge as you blow – the process is very simple, just like blowing bubbles!

Questions to consider when reading...

What sort of text is this? How do you know? What are these instructions for? Can you think of another title for this text? Can you circle all the adverbs in this text? Can you underline the imperative verbs? Can you draw a series of diagrams to go alongside this text? Can you find out how clouds are really formed?

Top tips: If you're looking to make a cirrus cloud, be sure to use a longer, thinner wand and blow gently to create this fine, light cloud. However, a cirrocumulus cloud should be formed by short, powerful bursts of breath and a rounder cloud wand in order to create the small ripples associated with these clouds, whose appearance has been likened to fish scales.

These questions are about *How to create clouds: a cloudy lesson*

1. Look at the sentence:

Next, carefully climb the ladder, ensuring that you have all the required equipment with you.

Why does the author use the word '**carefully**' in this section?

_____ 1 mark

2. Why do you need warm clothes when creating clouds?

_____ 1 mark

3. Why is the magic cloud wand the most important piece of equipment you need?

_____ 1 mark

4. Draw lines to match the equipment to its function and purpose.

ladder	to keep you warm
magic cloud wand	to help you climb up the platform
hat and gloves	to blow through to create clouds

2 marks

5. What is the difference between a cirrus cloud and a cirrocumulus cloud?

_____ 1 mark

This text was inspired by The Ringling College of Art and Design's short film called 'A Cloudy Lesson'. The film and follow-up activities can be found here:

<http://www.literacyshed.com/the-inventors-shed.html>