

Scientists list 12 new types of cloud

2nd April, 2017



For the first time in 30 years, scientists, meteorologists, sky watchers and cloud lovers have names for 12 'new' cloud formations. The International Cloud Atlas has recognized 'new' types of cloud for the first time since 1987. The atlas has been referencing cloud formations since 1896. It is considered to be the standard and most authoritative reference tool on clouds. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) now publishes it and has the final say on whether or not to include new clouds and cloud features. The WMO said you don't need to be an expert to find a new cloud. A spokesman said anyone can take a photo and send it to the WMO, and that could be recognized one day as a new cloud.

The new addition creating the biggest buzz online is named *asperitas*, meaning 'rough-like' in Latin. It looks like the tossing of the waves at sea when viewed from below. Another is the *volutus*. This a low, horizontal, tube-shaped cloud mass that looks like it is rolling. The WMO said the attention the new clouds are receiving could increase people's interest in the environment. It said: "The value of the atlas is that it draws our attention to the sky and by learning the name of the formations...we pay attention to and value what we see around us." It added: "By giving a language to the forms of our atmosphere, we are helping people to value our atmosphere and to pay attention to our impact on it."

Sources: bbc.com / weather.com / abc.net.au

Writing

We pay too little attention to the environment. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

meteorologists / names / types / atlas / standard / tool / features / expert / photo / addition / Latin / waves / tube / interest / environment / value / atmosphere / impact

True / False

- There are names for new clouds for the first time in 30 years. T / F
- The International Cloud Atlas started in 1987. T / F
- The World Meteorological Agency publishes the International Cloud Atlas. T / F
- The World Meteorological Agency says people can send it photos. T / F
- The cloud causing the greatest online interest has a Greek name. T / F
- The volutus cloud is shaped like a spiral. T / F
- The value of the atlas is that it draws our attention to the sky. T / F
- The WMO says there is little value in giving names to clouds. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. meteorologists | a. specialist |
| 2. formations | b. if |
| 3. considered | c. inclusive |
| 4. whether | d. patterns |
| 5. expert | e. attraction |
| 6. addition | f. appreciate |
| 7. below | g. weather forecasters |
| 8. interest | h. effect |
| 9. value | i. underneath |
| 10. impact | j. believed |

Discusson – Student

- What do you think about what you read?
- How interested are you in meteorology?
- What does a meteorologist do all day?
- Should we learn more about clouds at school?
- Does naming new clouds make us value our environment more?
- What do you think of the word 'cloud' being used for digital storage?
- What impact do we have on clouds?
- What questions would you like to ask the WMO?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. For the first | a. buzz online |
| 2. the standard and most authoritative | b. impact on it |
| 3. has the final | c. be an expert |
| 4. you don't need to | d. shaped cloud mass |
| 5. could be recognized one | e. time in 30 years |
| 6. creating the biggest | f. say |
| 7. like the tossing of the waves | g. what we see around us |
| 8. This a low, horizontal, tube- | h. reference tool |
| 9. we pay attention to and value | i. at sea |
| 10. pay attention to our | j. day as a new cloud |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of clouds?
- Do you have a favourite type of clouds?
- Do you prefer a cloudy or cloudless sky?
- What does 'have one's head in the clouds' mean?
- How are clouds formed?
- What cloud types do you know of?
- How important are clouds?
- How many adjectives do you know to describe clouds?

Spelling

- scientists, iotoeorselsgtm, sky watchers...
- 12 'new' cloud srftnoomai
- considered to be the tsdandra
- authoritative ceeenrfre tool on clouds
- cloud taureefs
- you don't need to be an extper
- The new iaontidd creating the biggest buzz
- when ivewed from below
- a low, arioltozn, tube-shaped cloud
- people's interest in the vetenrominn
- the forms of our opsremaeth
- pay itaeonntt to our impact on it

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. a
6. c	7. i	8. e	9. f	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Clouds

You think clouds are the best things to study. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the most boring of these (and why): the ozone layer, photosynthesis or El Nino.

Role B – The Ozone Layer

You think the ozone layer is best thing to study. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the most boring of these (and why): clouds, photosynthesis or El Nino.

Role C – Photosynthesis

You think photosynthesis is best thing to study. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the most boring of these (and why): the ozone layer, clouds or El Nino.

Role D – El Nino

You think El Nino is best thing to study. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the most boring of these (and why): the ozone layer, photosynthesis or clouds.

Speaking – Study

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to study at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| • photosynthesis | • clouds |
| • the Sun | • the ozone layer |
| • global warming | • hurricanes |
| • El Nino | • the Moon |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.