

**Project FOCUS
Best Lessons
FIRST GRADE**

Title of Lesson: Cloud Collage

Theme: Earth/Space Science

Unit Number: 1 **Unit Title:** Weather and the Seasons

Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter code):

S1E1

Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):

Habits of Mind

- Asks questions
- Uses numbers to quantify
- Works in a group
- Uses tools to measure and view
- Looks at how parts of things are needed
- Describes and compares using physical attributes
- Observes using senses
- Draws and describes observations

Content (key terms and topics covered):

Types of clouds, weather patterns

Learning Activity (Description in Steps)

Abstract(limit 100 characters): The purpose of this science lesson is to inform students about three types of clouds.

Details: The first day, I talked about the three types of clouds: cumulus, stratus, and cirrus.

Cumulus clouds are the puffy ones. Stratus clouds are the flat, spread out clouds. Cirrus clouds are the feathery clouds that are at high altitudes. Cumulus clouds are called the “fair weather” clouds meaning if you see them it is usually going to be good weather.

Stratus clouds tend to be grayish and they sometimes drizzle. Cirrus clouds can be made of ice and usually predict good weather. So, I described the differences among the three clouds to the first graders, and I showed them pictures of these clouds that I found on the internet. After that, we played a game to help them remember the clouds. When I said the name of the cloud, they had to do the motion that corresponded to that cloud. Since cumulus clouds are the puffy ones, we put our arms out wide like we were really big. For stratus clouds, we laid flat on the ground since they are the flat clouds. For cirrus clouds, we did our hand in a swaying motion and said, “Light as a feather.” They really enjoyed this game. They learned which cloud went with each description. Then, we went outside and took pictures of the clouds, and I took pictures of the students. I got the pictures developed and brought them back the following day. We made a cloud collage on a

poster board. We put the pictures we had taken outside, and some pictures I printed off the internet. We wrote the names of the different clouds and they cut out clouds from construction paper, so we had some colorful clouds on the poster. They really enjoyed this activity. The cloud collage looked really great!

Materials Needed (Type and Quantity):

- poster board
- camera
- glue
- scissors
- pictures of clouds
- construction paper

Notes and Tips (suggested changes, alternative methods, cautions):

There were not really any major safety concerns except make sure all the kids stay orderly since part of the lesson is outside. Of course, make sure the kids are careful with the scissors when using them to cut out the pictures.

Sources/References:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)