

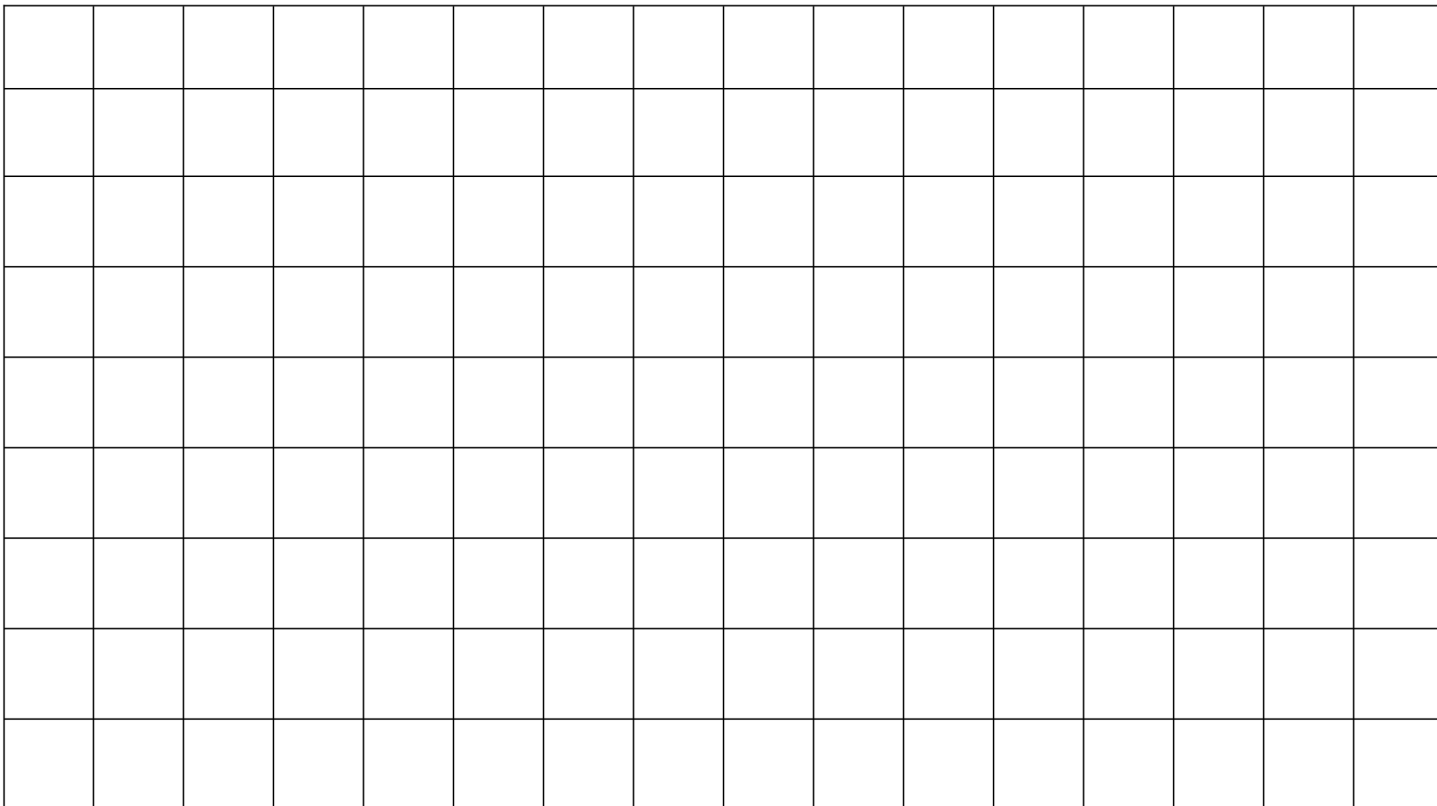
Cirrus Clouds

Cirrus: *Cirro-* means *thin curl*. When clouds look like they are thin curls in the sky, they are cirrus clouds. They form thin streaks, like little threads of smoke curling up from a fire. Cirrus clouds are not made of droplets of water, but instead are made of ice crystals. Cirrus clouds are very high in the sky, sometimes more than 35,000 feet (10,700 meters) above the earth.

Follow these instructions to draw a cirrus cloud on the next page like the one shown below:

- In the first grid, draw the half of the picture that is missing.
- In the second grid, see if you can draw the entire picture.



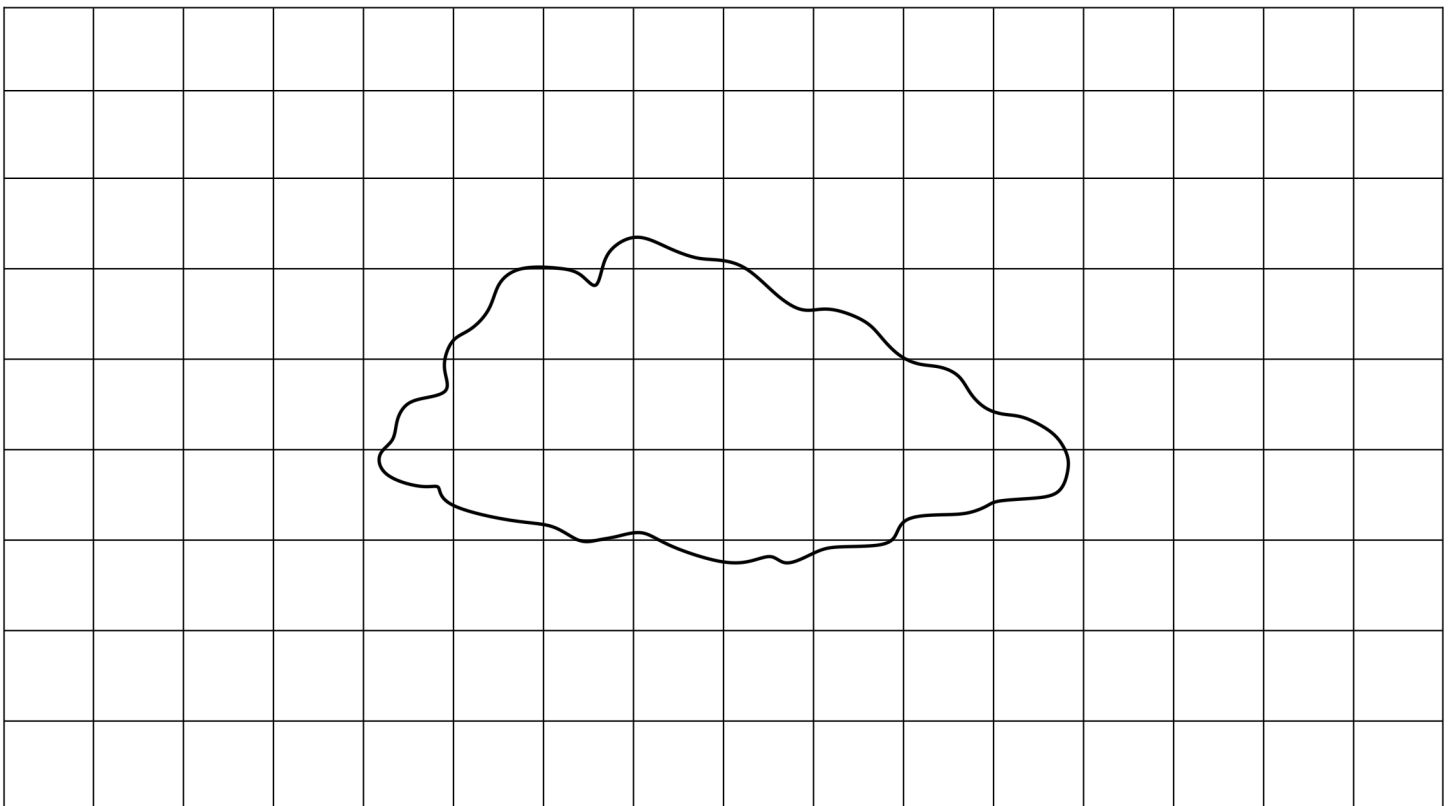


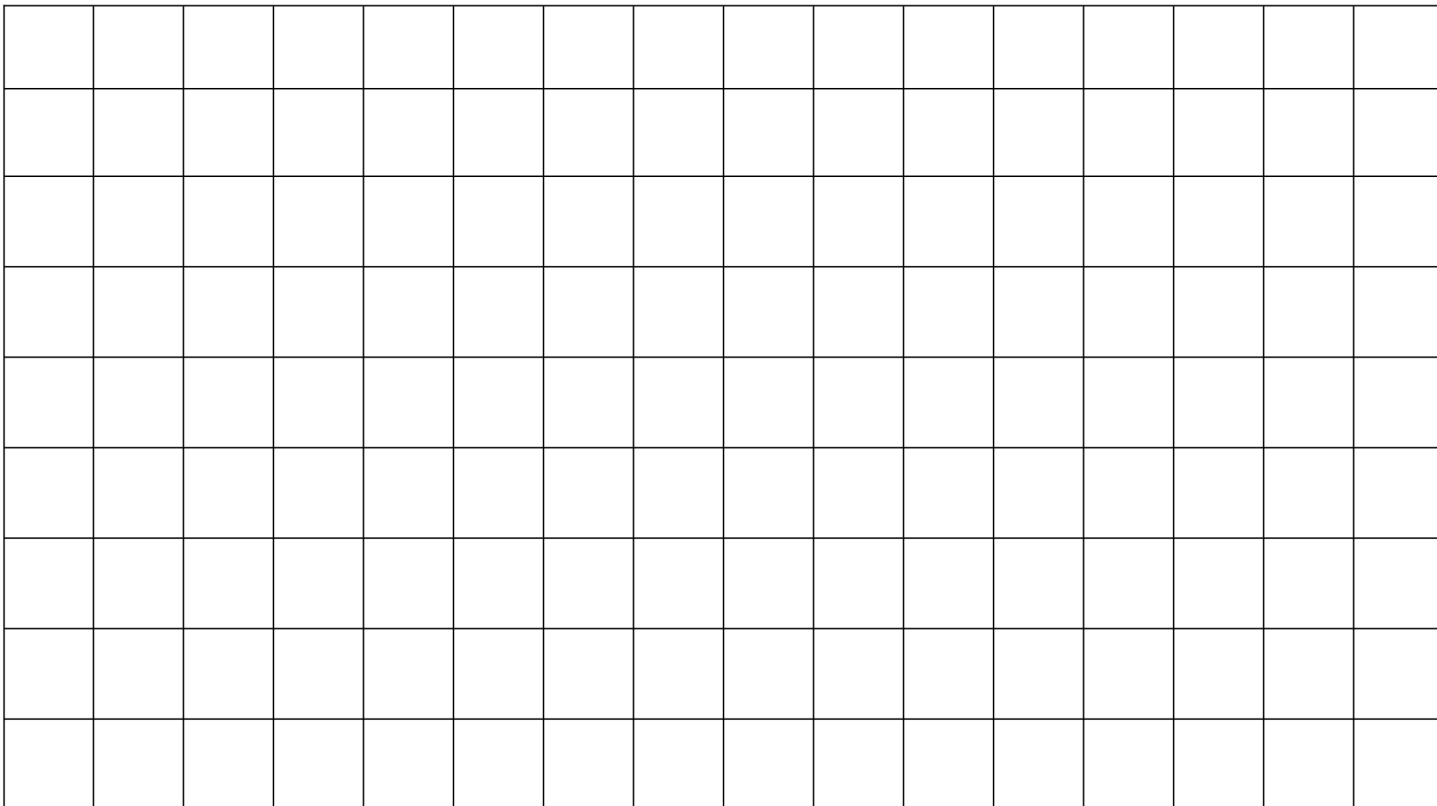
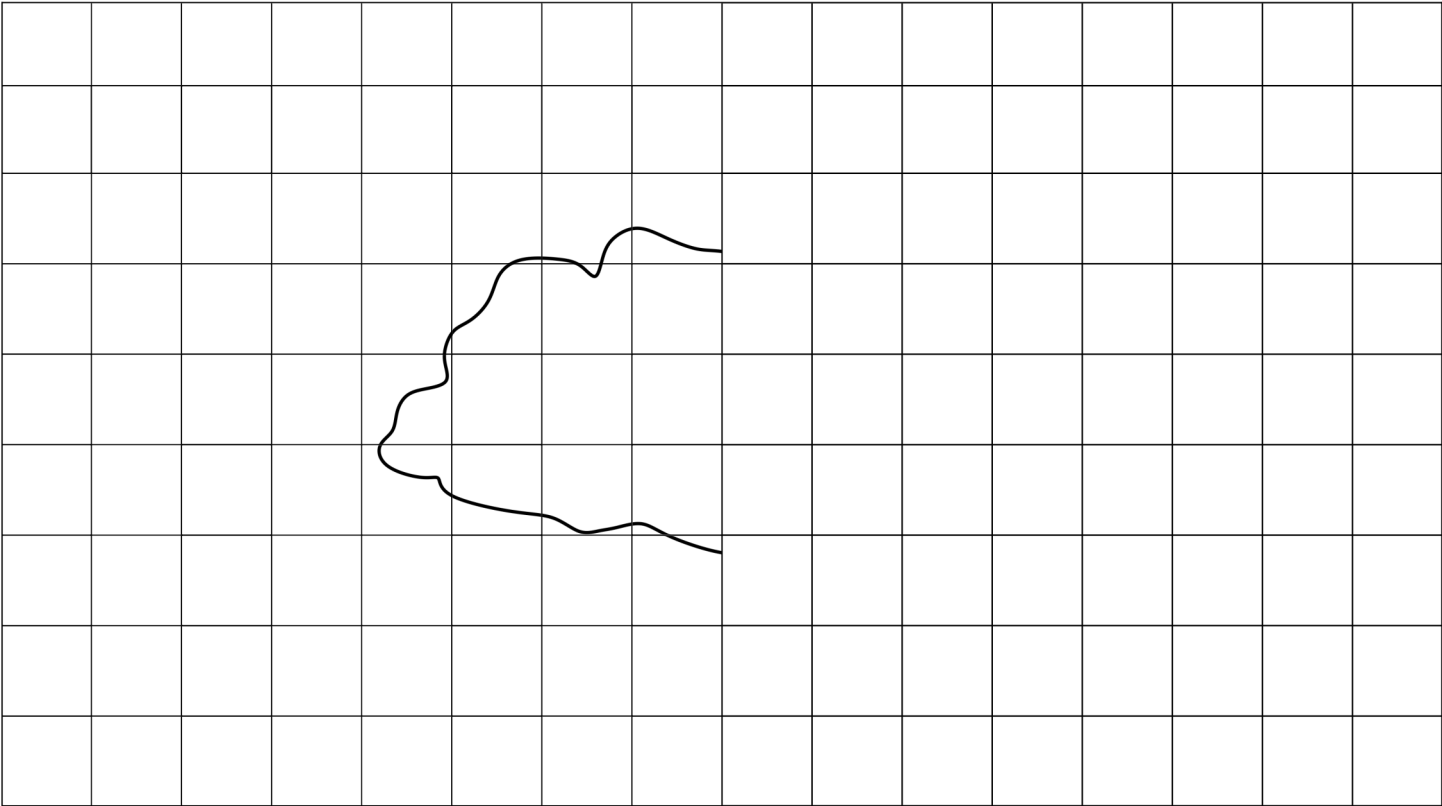
Cumulus Clouds

Cumulus: *Cumulo-* means *pile* or *heap*. When it looks like white clouds are piled on top of each other like scoops of ice cream on a cone, these are cumulus clouds. Cumulus clouds are vertical, meaning one is built on top of another, so they can be from 1,600 to 40,000 feet (500 to 1,200 meters) above the earth. They can grow very high, even though the bottom of these clouds is near the ground. Cumulus clouds are formed mostly of droplets of water. They sometimes develop into storm clouds.

Follow these instructions to draw a cumulus cloud on the next page like the one shown below:

- In the first grid, draw the half of the picture that is missing.
- In the second grid, see if you can draw the entire picture.



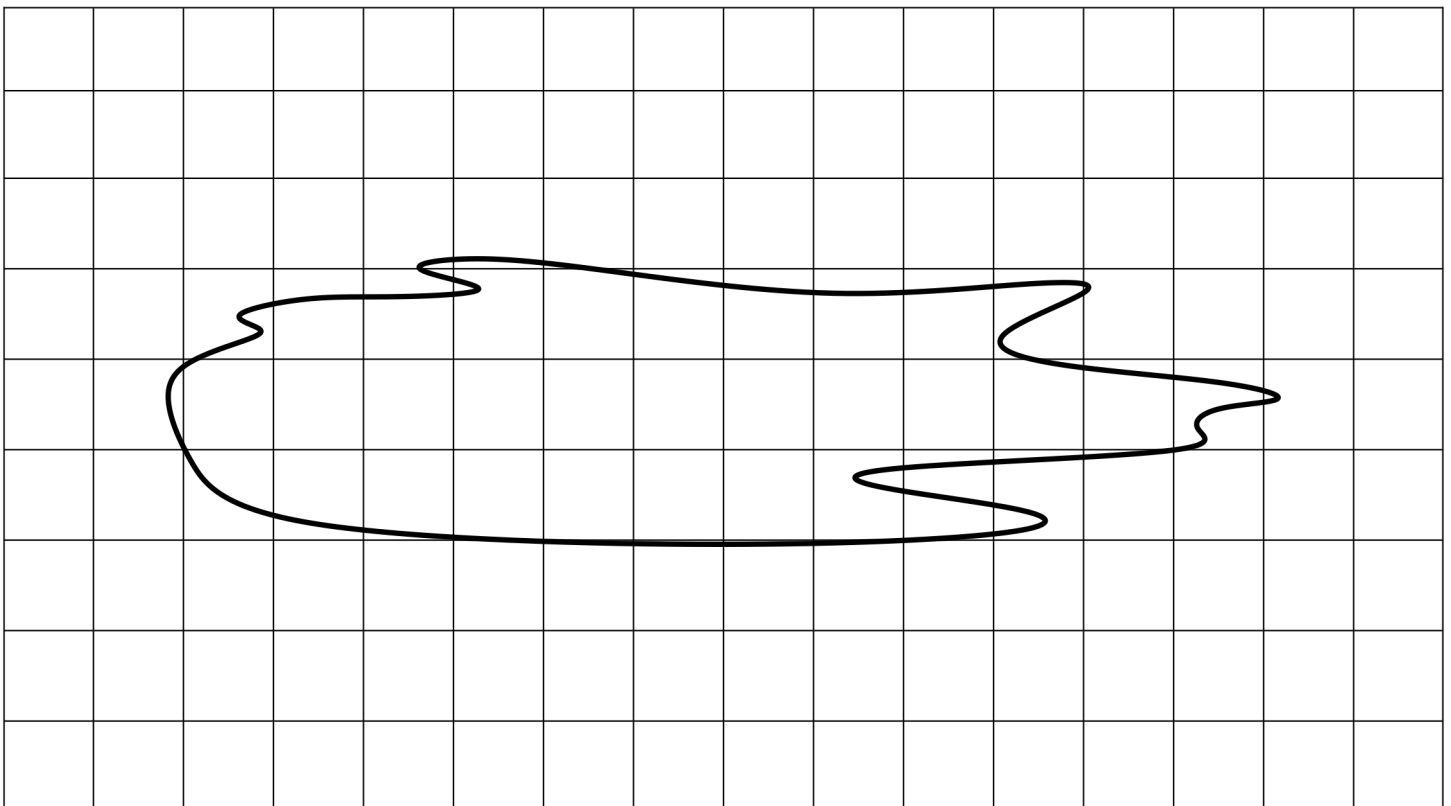


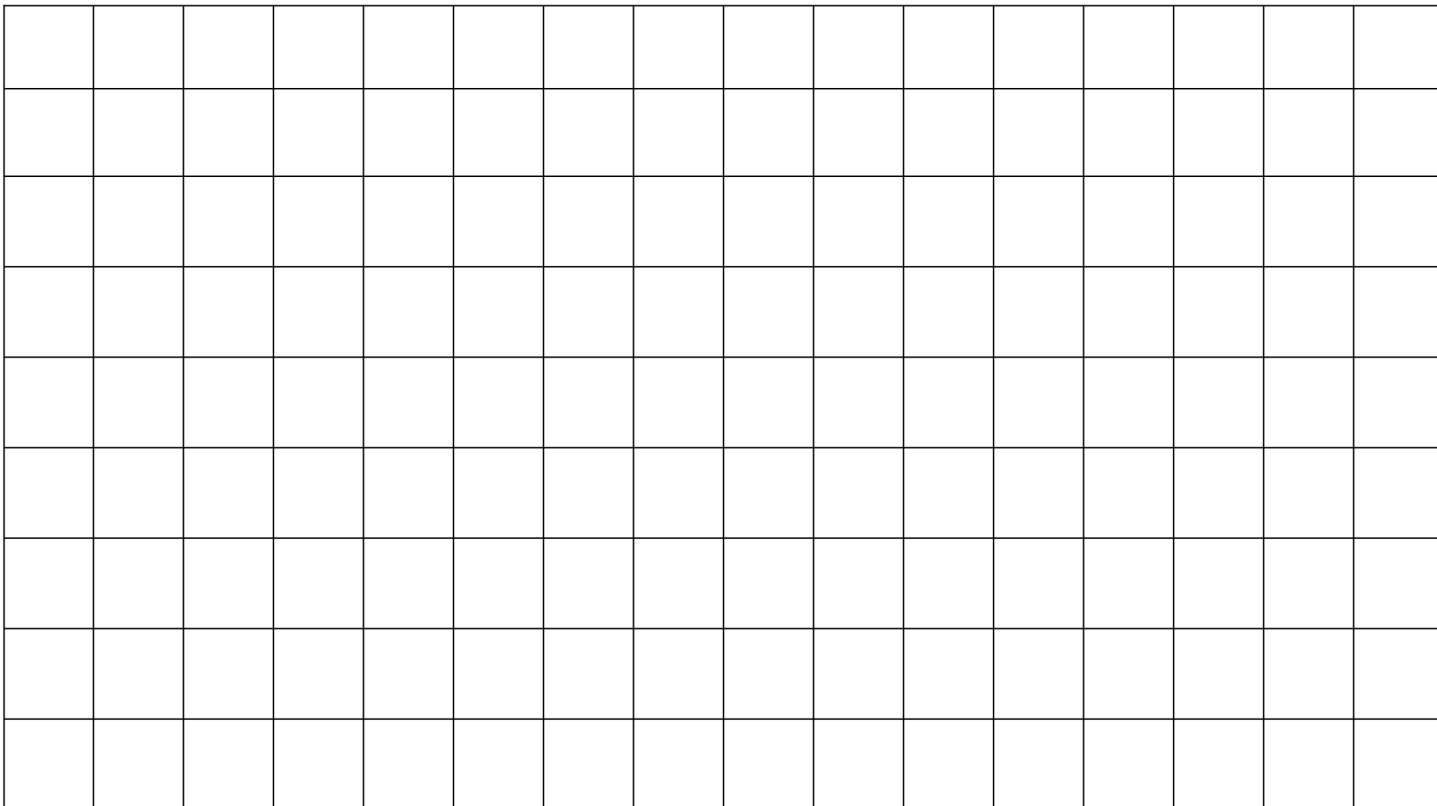
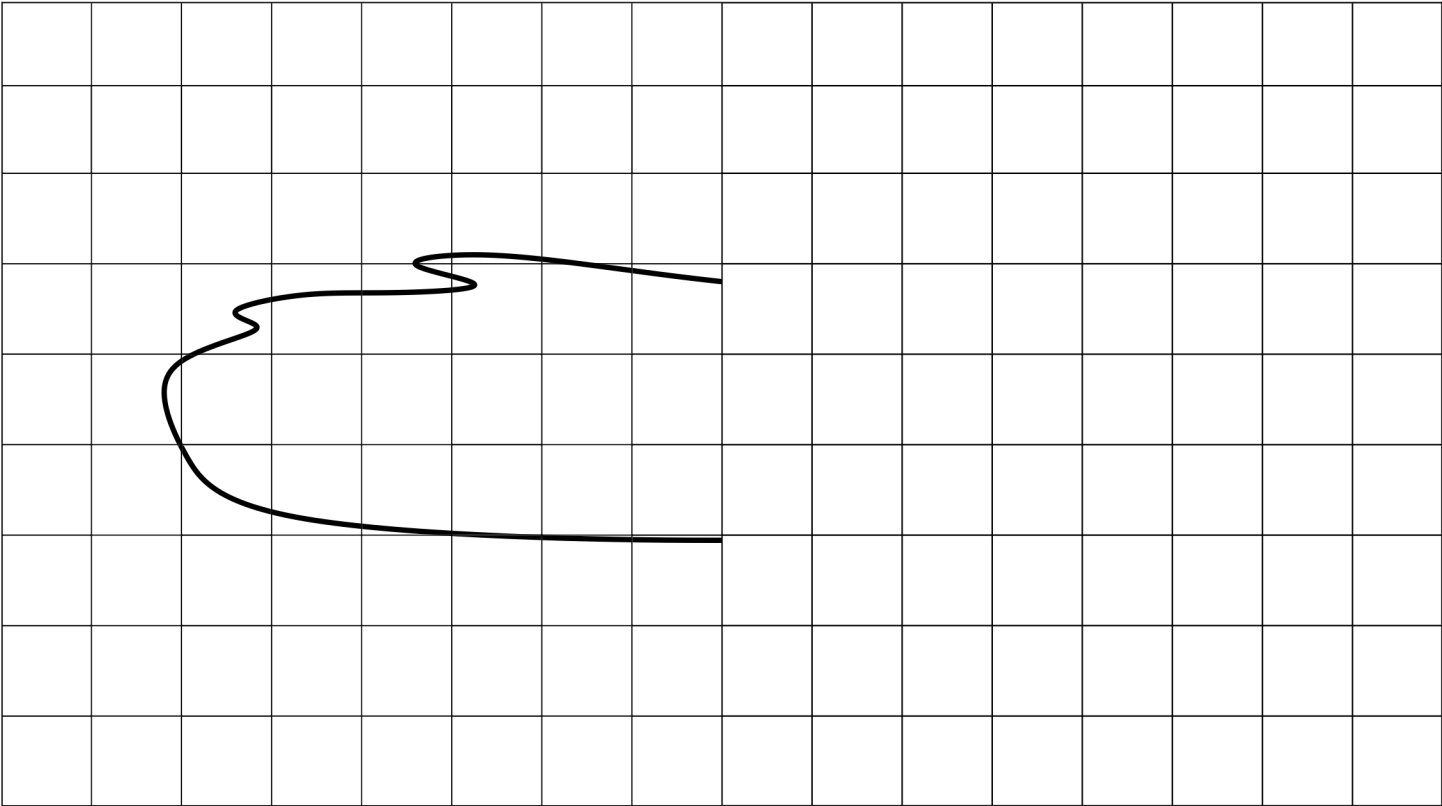
Stratus Clouds

Stratus: *Strato-* means *in layers or sheets*. When clouds look like they are in layers in the sky, they are stratus clouds. Stratus clouds are usually seen at altitudes less than 6,000 feet (1,800 meters) above the earth. They are formed mainly of droplets of water. These clouds look like a smooth, even layer and many times, they send drizzle or snow flurries to the earth.

Follow these instructions to draw a stratus cloud on the next page like the one shown below:

- In the first grid, draw the half of the picture that is missing.
- In the second grid, see if you can draw the entire picture.



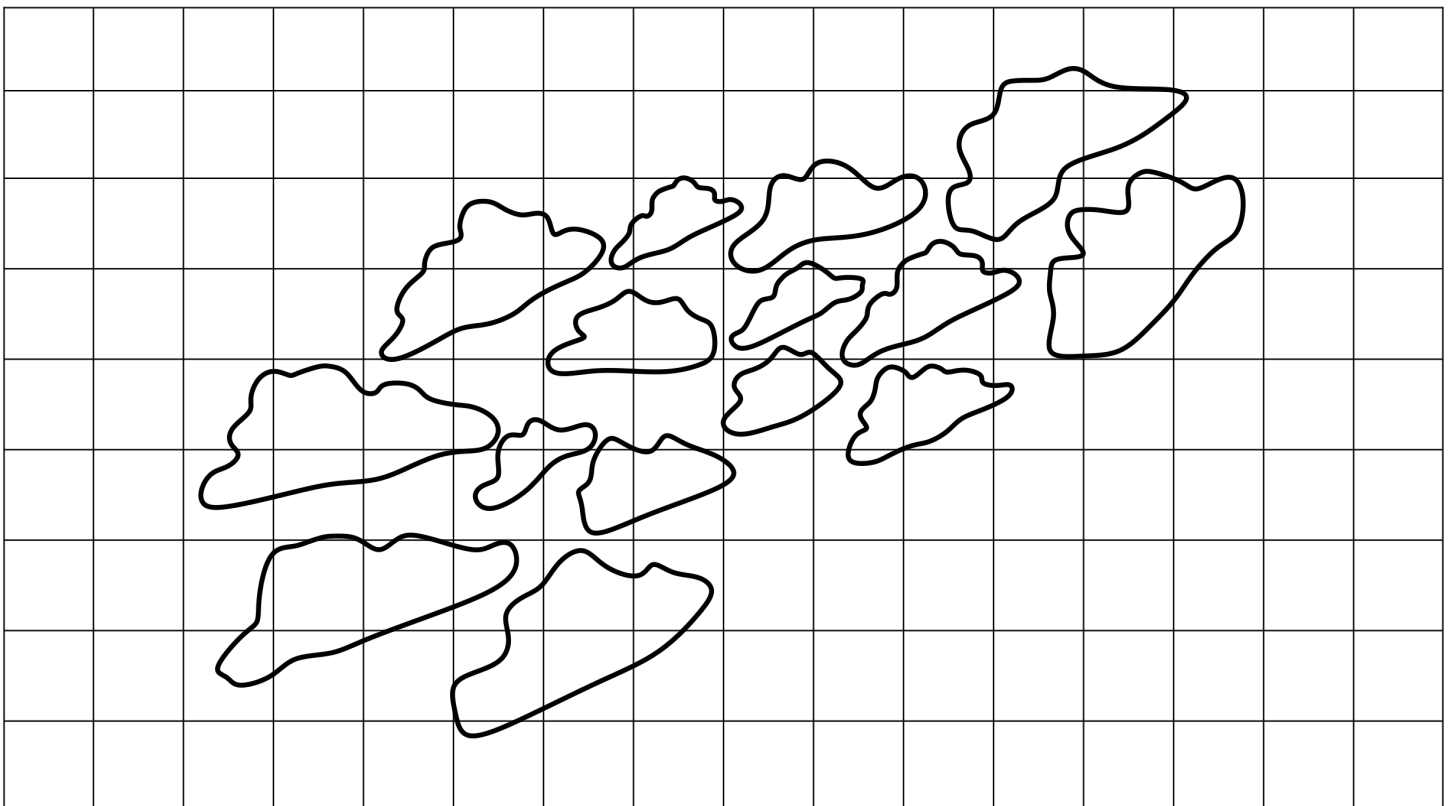


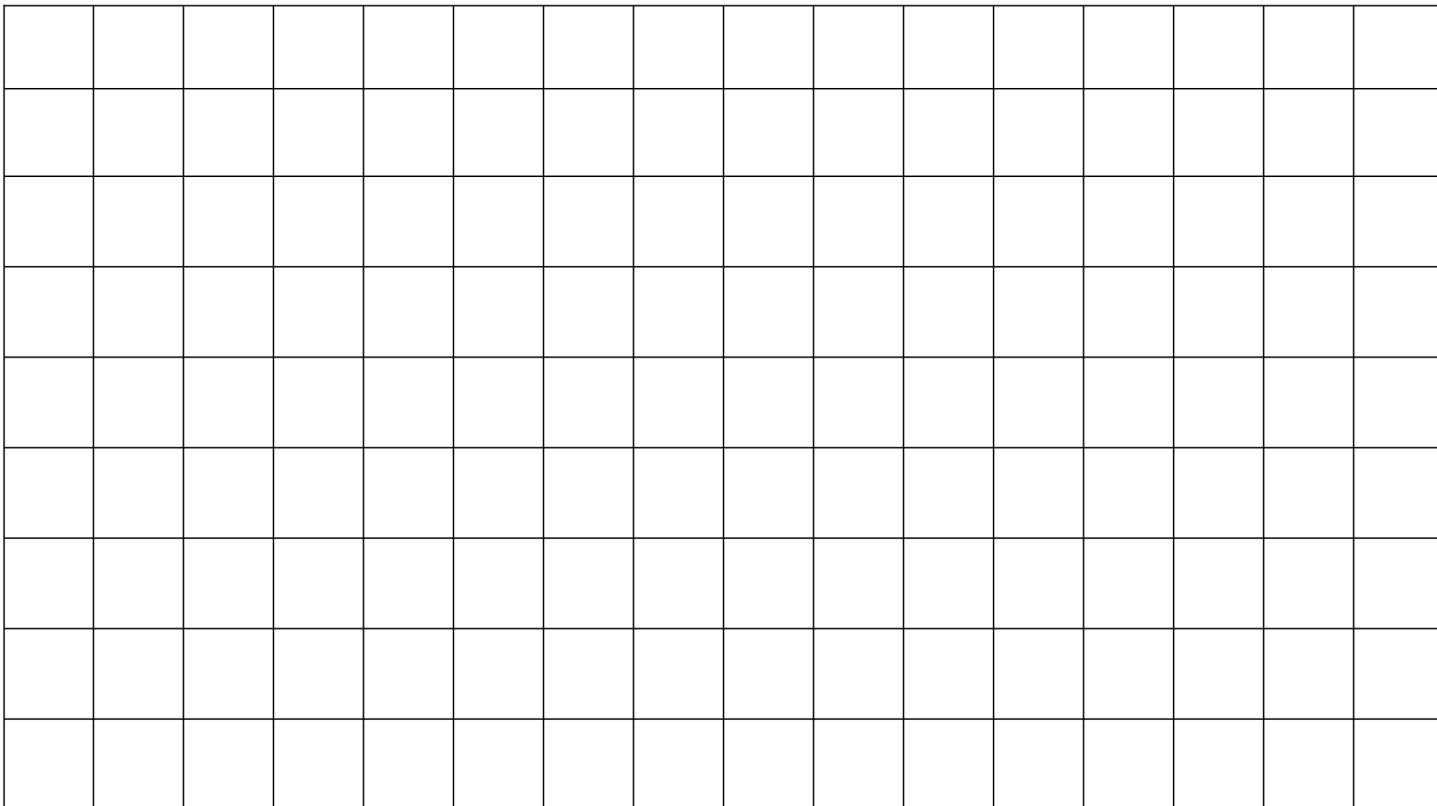
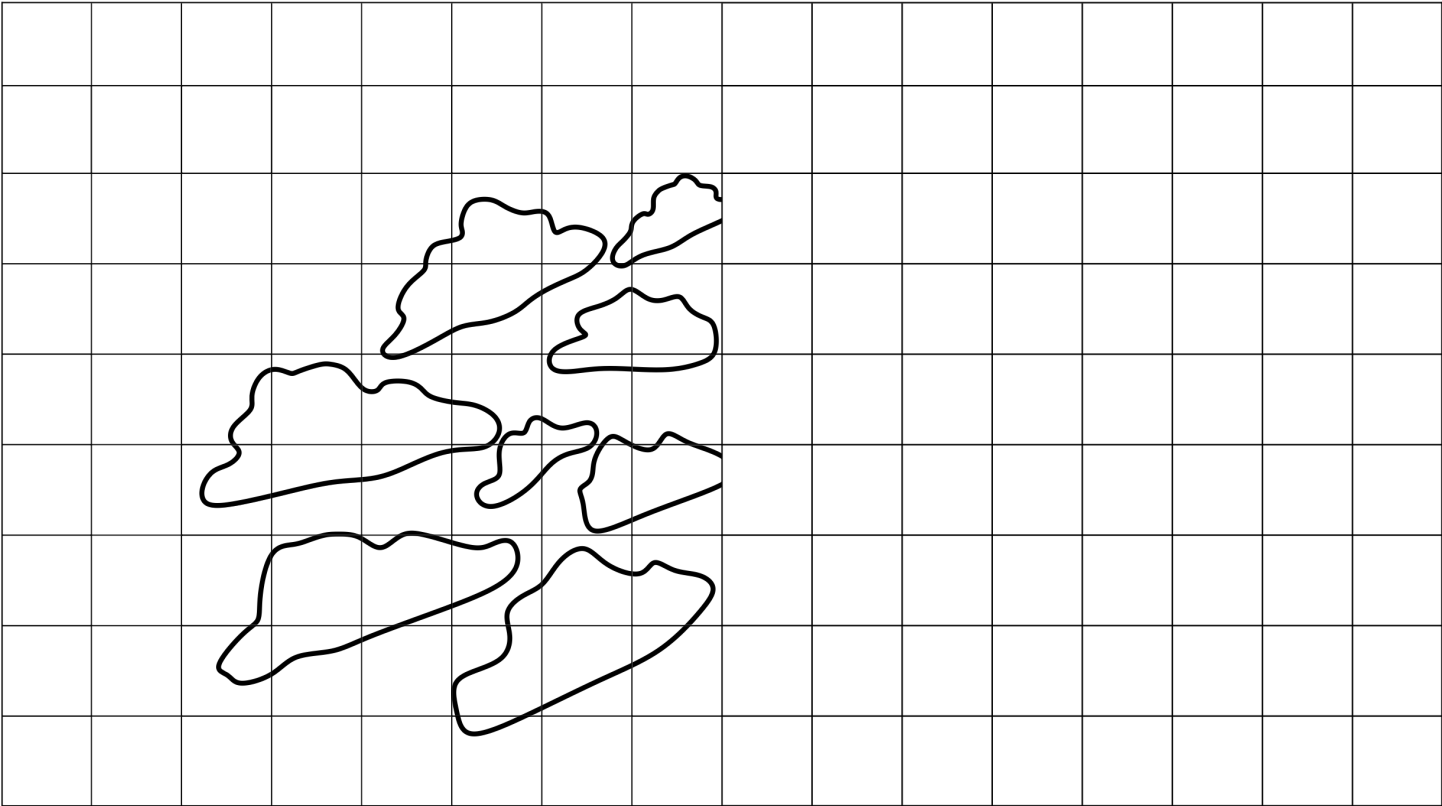
Alto cumulus Clouds

Alto cumulus: Since *alto-* means *high*, cumulus clouds that are higher in the sky, about 6,000 to 20,000 feet (1,800 to 6,100 meters) above the earth, are alto cumulus clouds. Alto cumulus clouds are formed mainly of droplets of water. These clouds can be in many different shapes, such as in bands or piles that are not connected in any way. Alto cumulus clouds can form thunderclouds.

Follow these instructions to draw an alto cumulus cloud on the next page like the one shown below:

- In the first grid, draw the half of the picture that is missing.
- In the second grid, see if you can draw the entire picture.



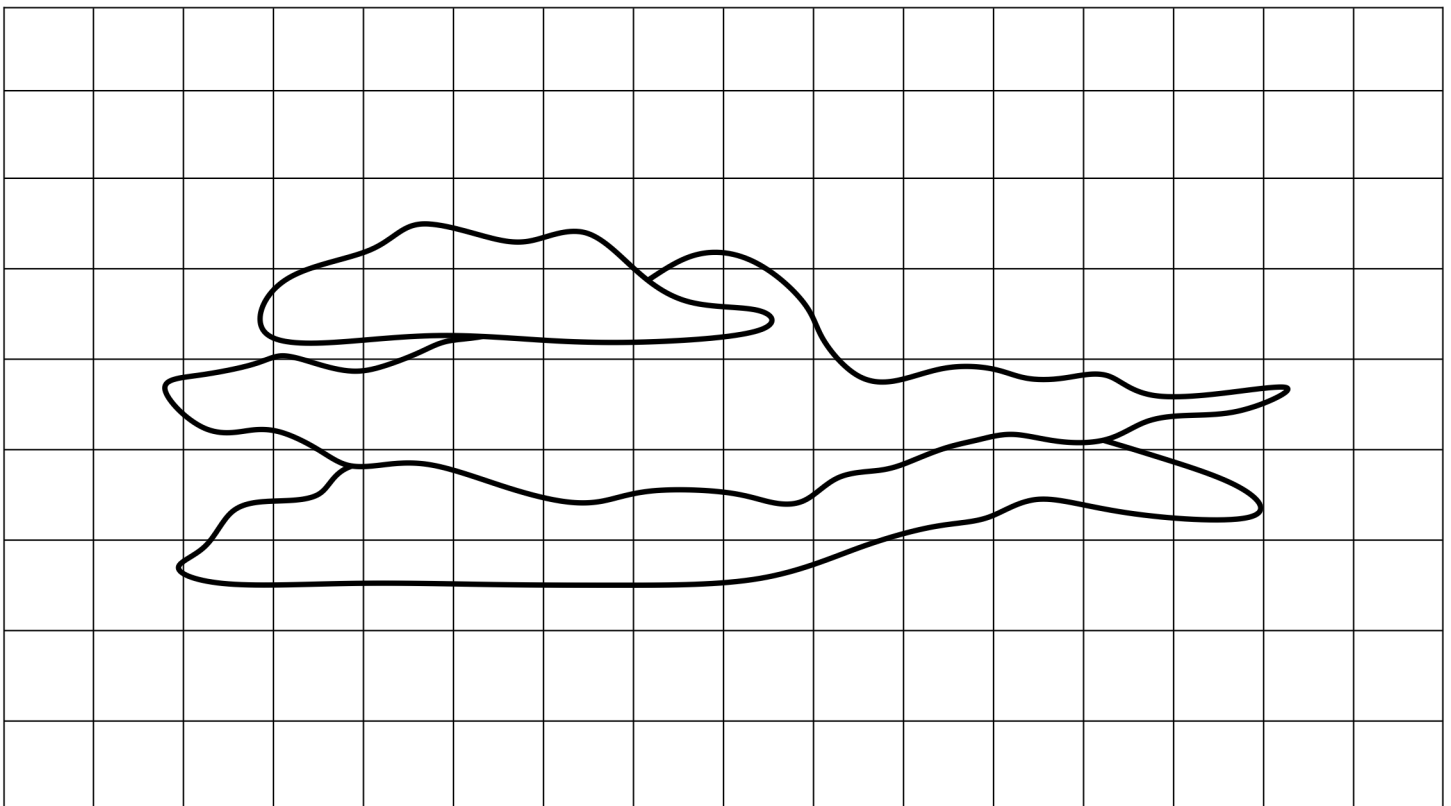


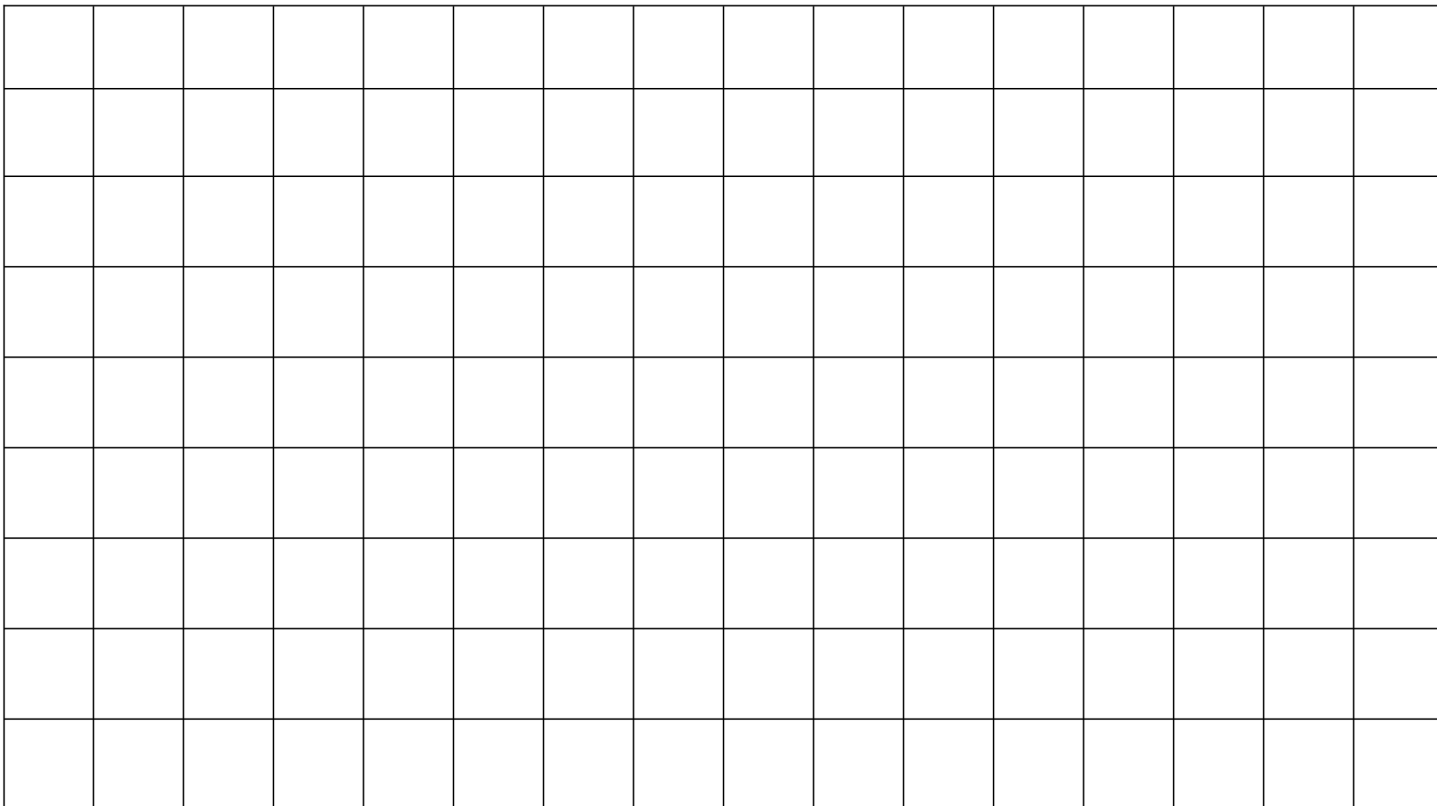
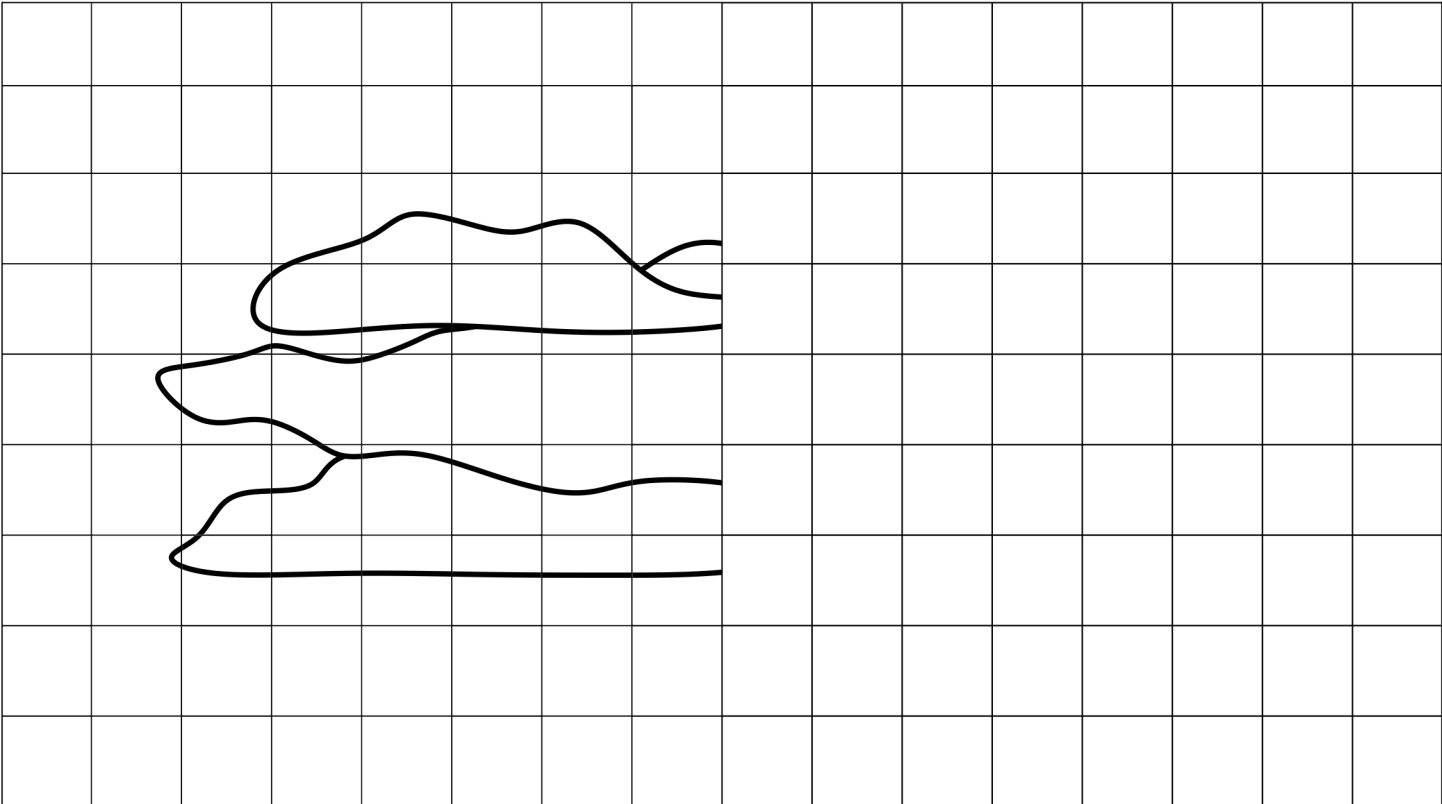
Altostratus Clouds

Altostratus: Since *alto-* means *high*, altostratus clouds are stratus clouds that are higher in the sky, about 6,000 to 20,000 feet (1,800 to 6,100 meters) above the earth. Altostratus clouds are formed mainly of droplets of water. These clouds make a smooth layer across the sky. Sometimes this layer is white, and other times, it can be gray or streaked. If the cloud layer is not too thick, you can even see the sun through it in places. There are times, however, that altostratus clouds are followed by rain or snow.

Follow these instructions to draw an altostratus cloud on the next page like the one shown below:

- In the first grid, draw the half of the picture that is missing.
- In the second grid, see if you can draw the entire picture.



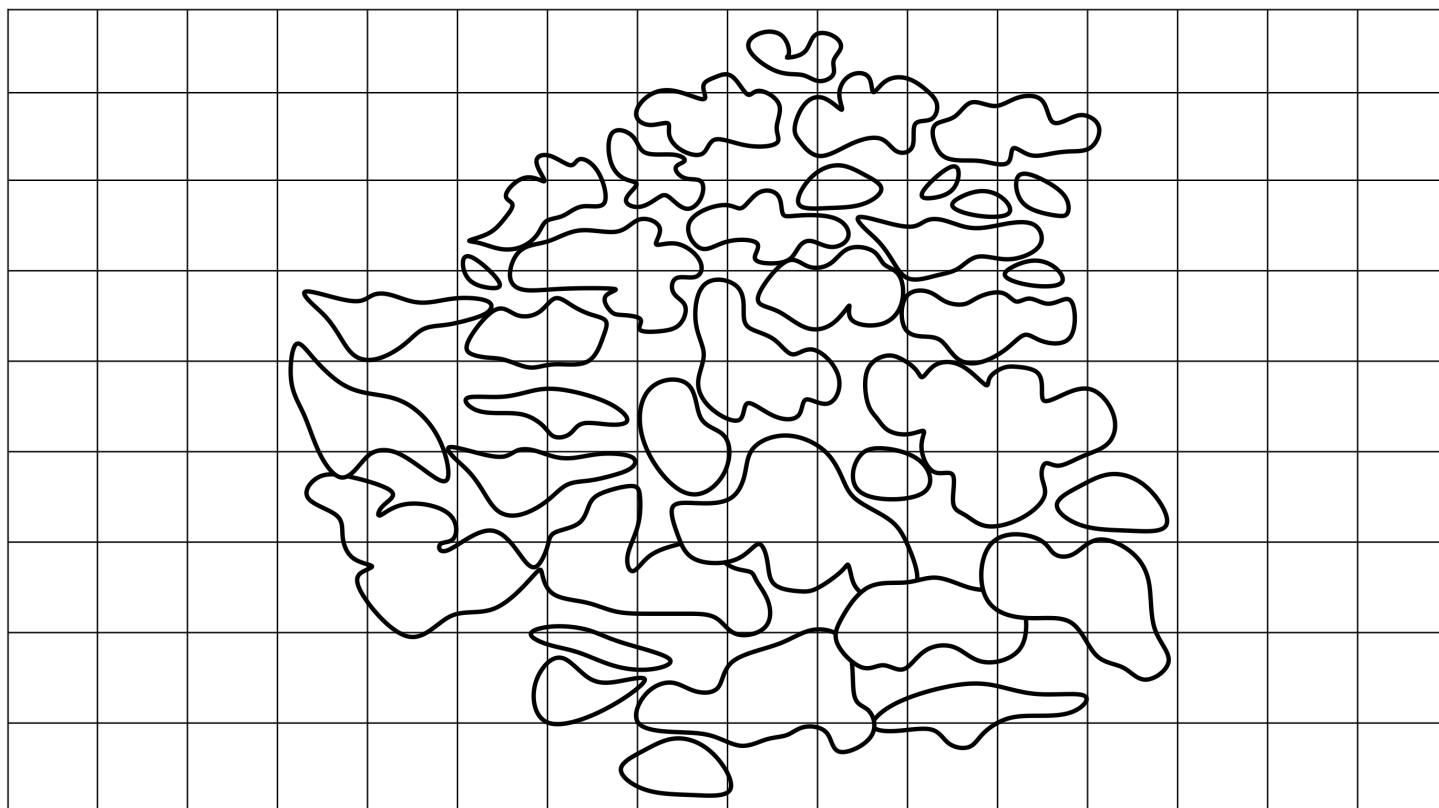


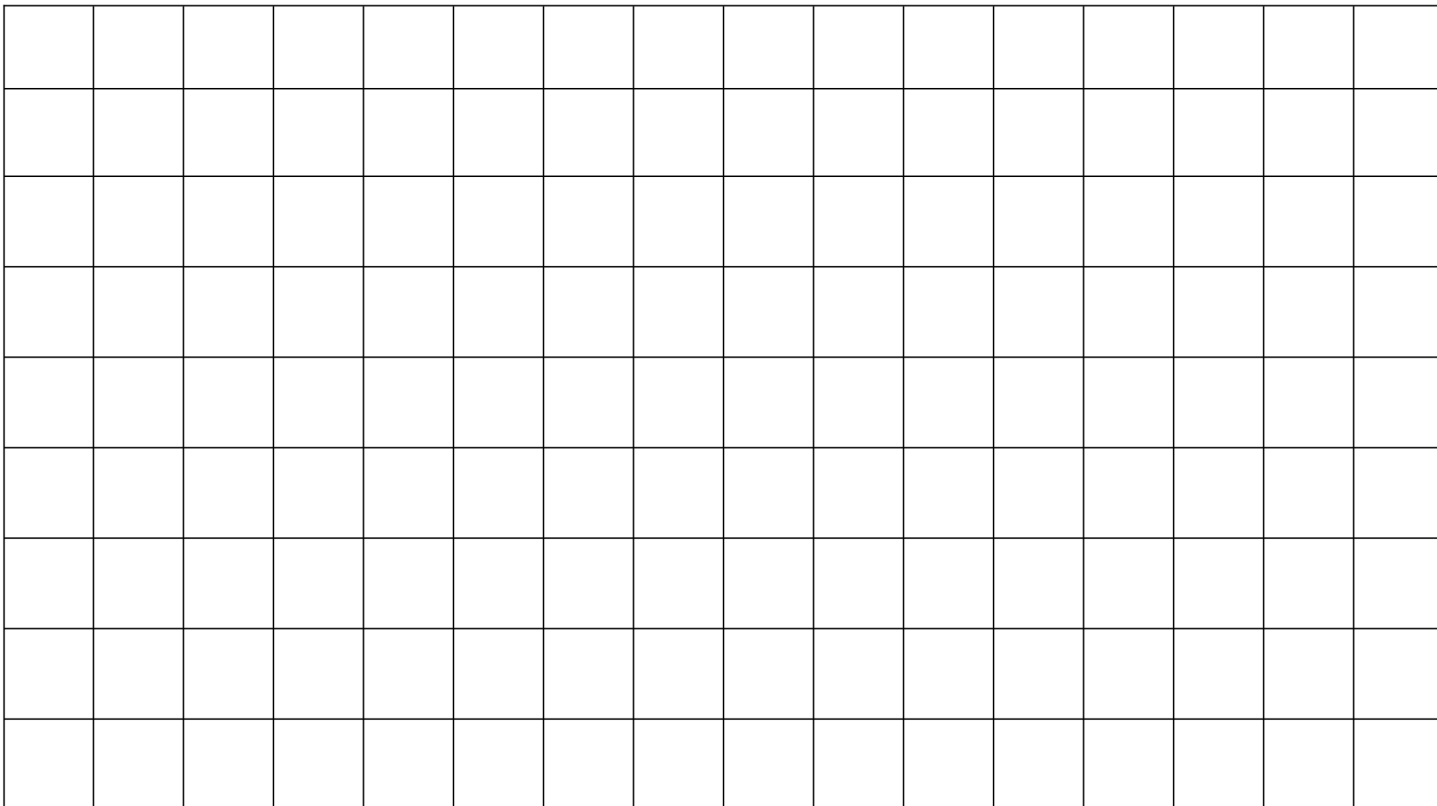
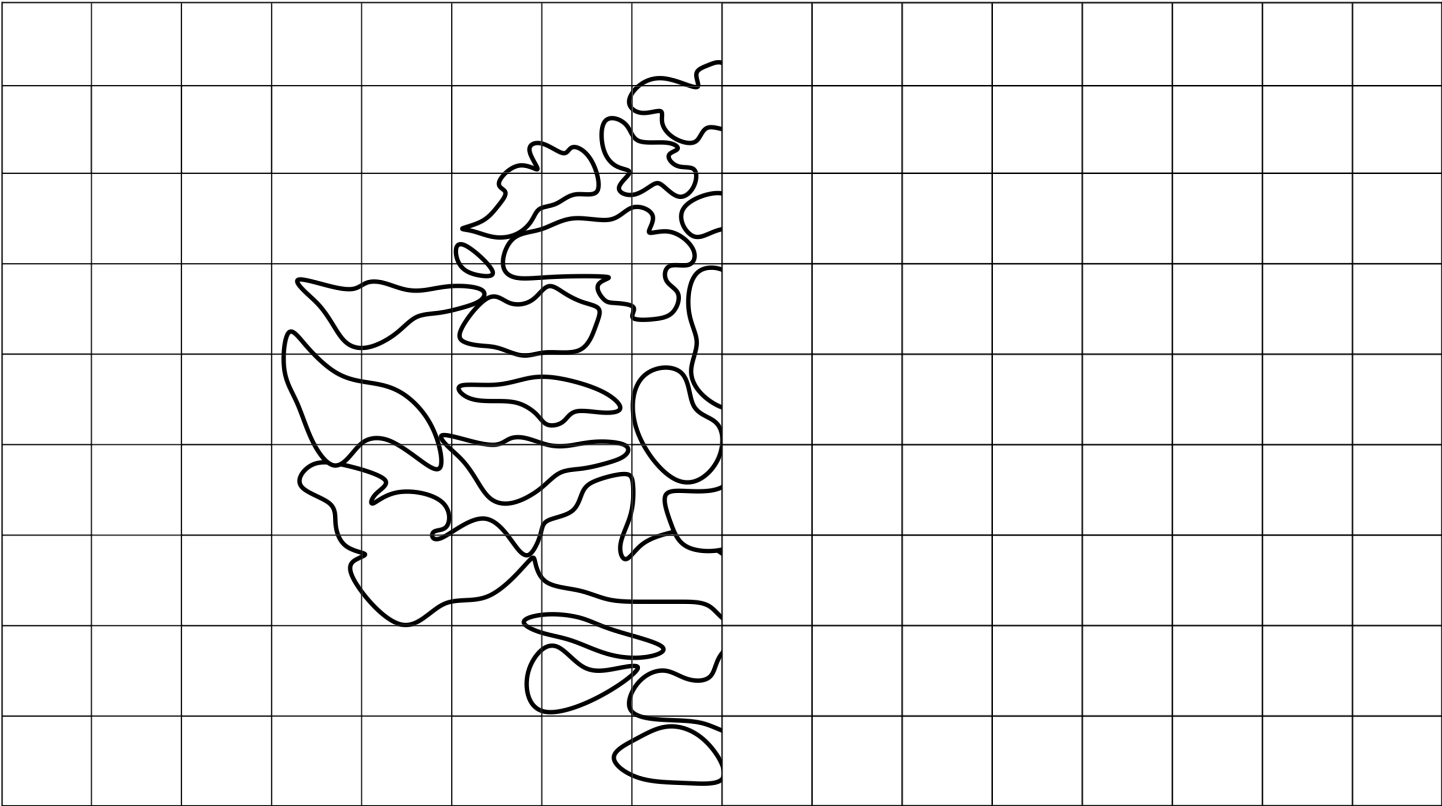
Cirrocumulus Clouds

Cirrocumulus: It is hard to imagine how a cloud can be thin and curly (cirrus), and also seem to form heaps in the sky (cumulus). Cirrocumulus clouds are rare, but when they appear, they look like little puffs of cotton just hanging way up high in the sky, sometimes more than 35,000 feet (10,700 meters) above the earth. Even though cumulus clouds are mainly made of water droplets, cirrocumulus clouds are made completely of ice crystals.

Follow these instructions to draw a cirrocumulus cloud on the next page like the one shown below:

- In the first grid, draw the half of the picture that is missing.
- In the second grid, see if you can draw the entire picture.



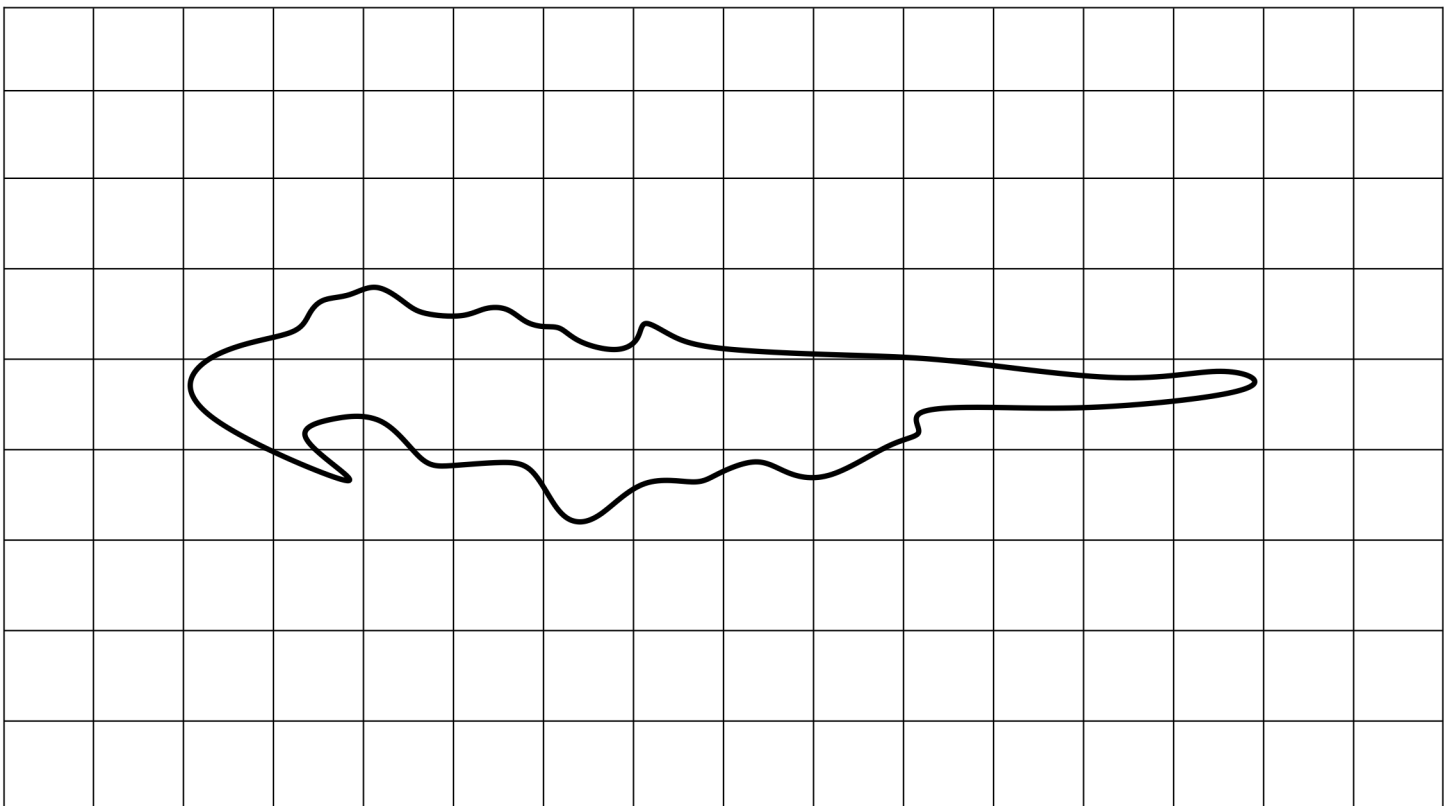


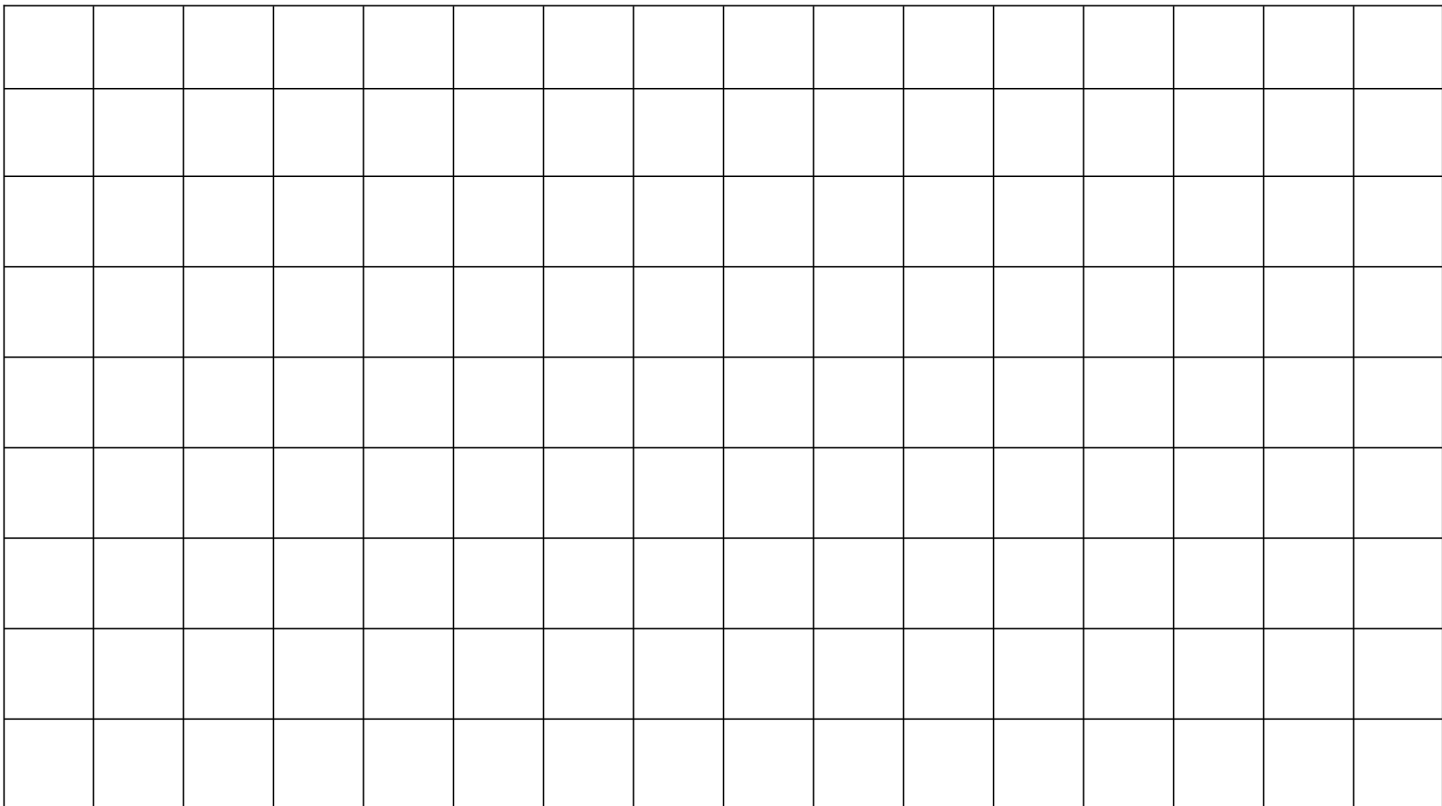
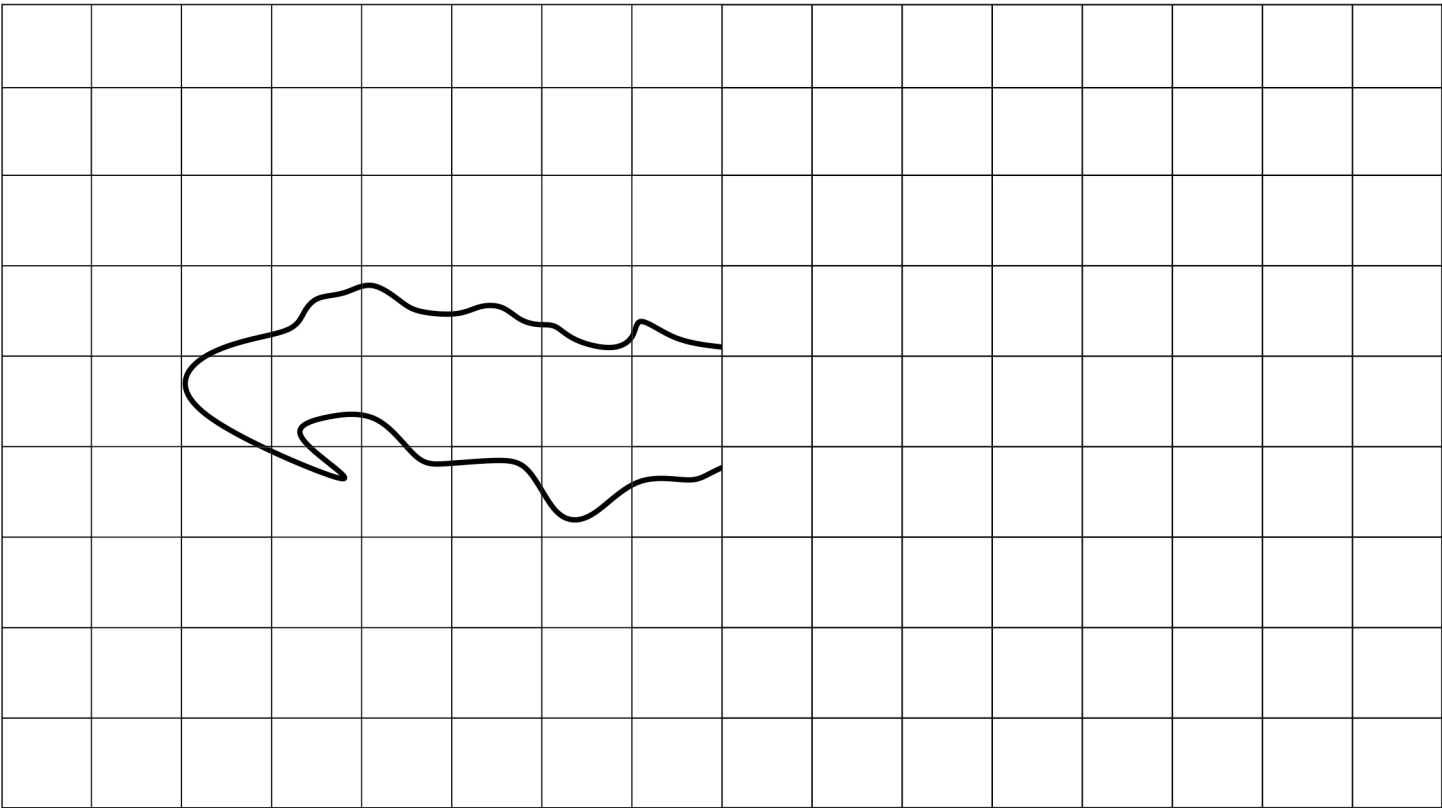
Cirrostratus Clouds

Cirrostratus: Cirrostratus clouds form a very thin sheet in the sky. They are so thin that it sometimes looks like there is a halo around the sun or the moon when cirrostratus clouds are in the atmosphere. Completely formed of ice crystals, they are seen very high, sometimes at altitudes of more than 35,000 feet (10,700 meters). It is not uncommon to see rain or snow with these clouds.

Follow these instructions to draw a cirrostratus cloud on the next page like the one shown below:

- In the first grid, draw the half of the picture that is missing.
- In the second grid, see if you can draw the entire picture.



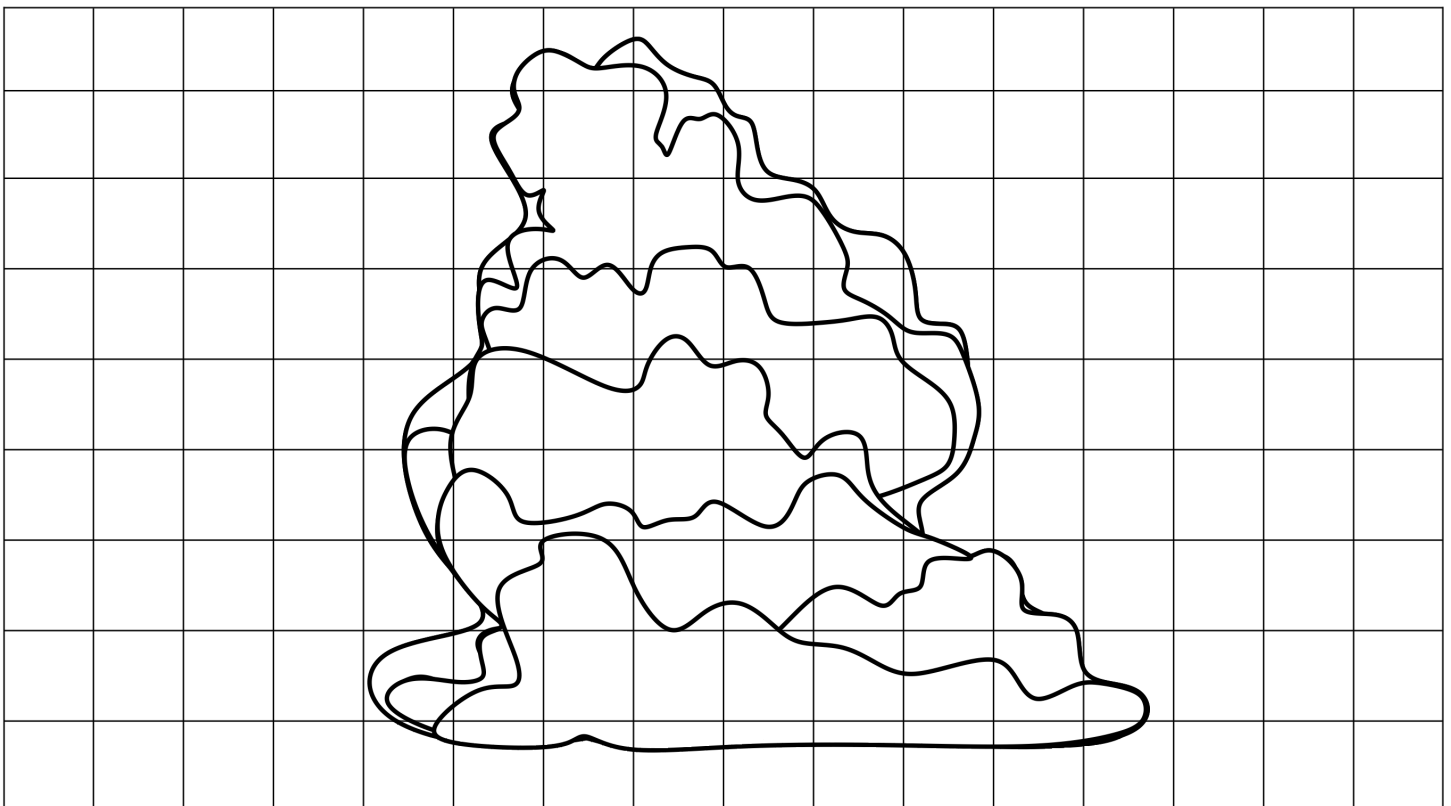


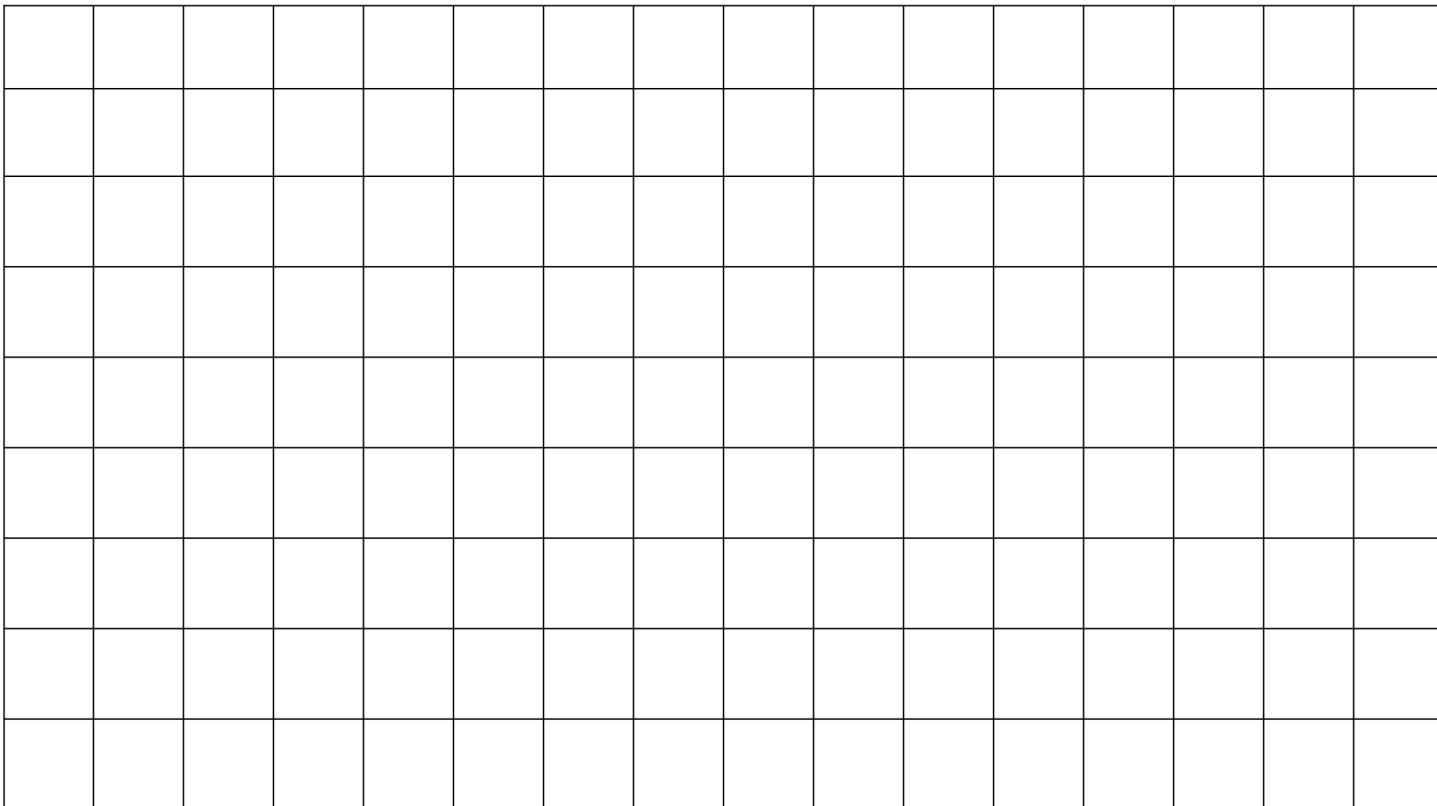
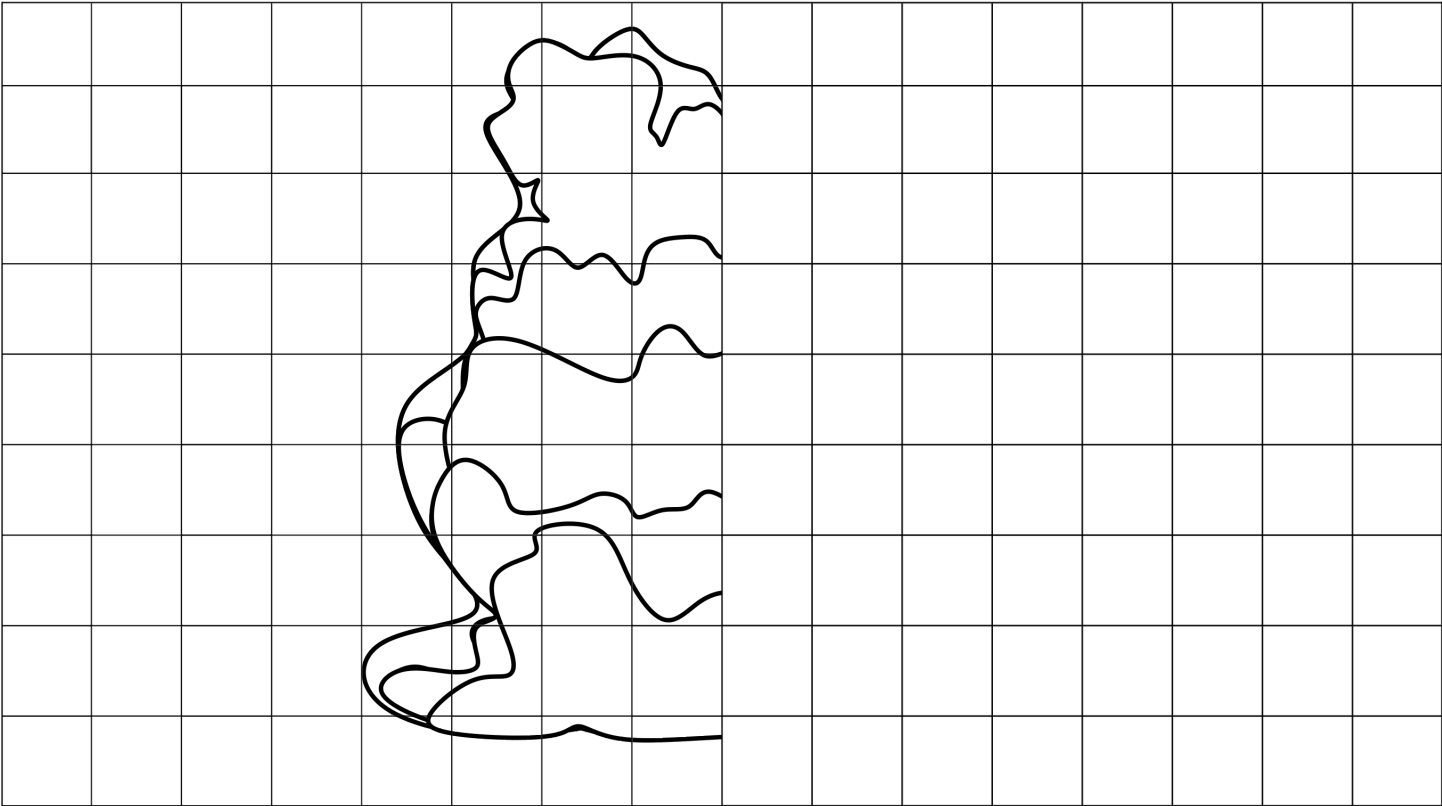
Cumulonimbus Clouds

Cumulonimbus: Cumulonimbus clouds are giant cumulus clouds. They look like clouds piled on top of each other, like regular cumulus clouds, but they can be as high as 60,000 feet (18,000 meters) from the bottom of the cloud formation to the top. Since the cloud grows so high from the earth, the top of the cumulonimbus cloud contains ice crystals, even though cumulus clouds are made mainly of water droplets. The top of the cloud spreads out in the shape of an anvil and is often called a thunderhead. Besides thunder, it also produces heavy rain and lightning. In some cases, hail or even a tornado can come from a cumulonimbus cloud.

Follow these instructions to draw a cumulonimbus cloud on the next page like the one shown below:

- In the first grid, draw the half of the picture that is missing.
- In the second grid, see if you can draw the entire picture.





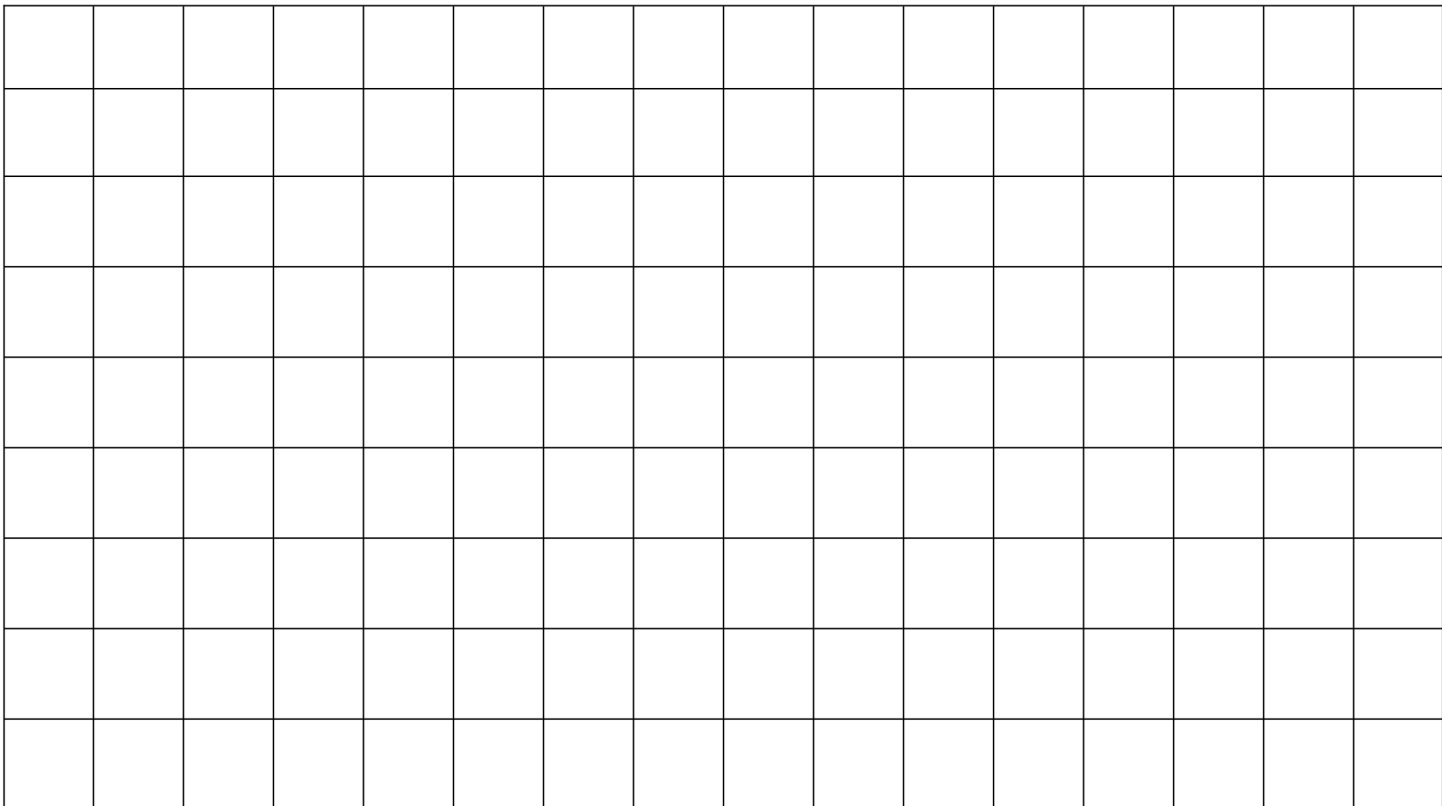
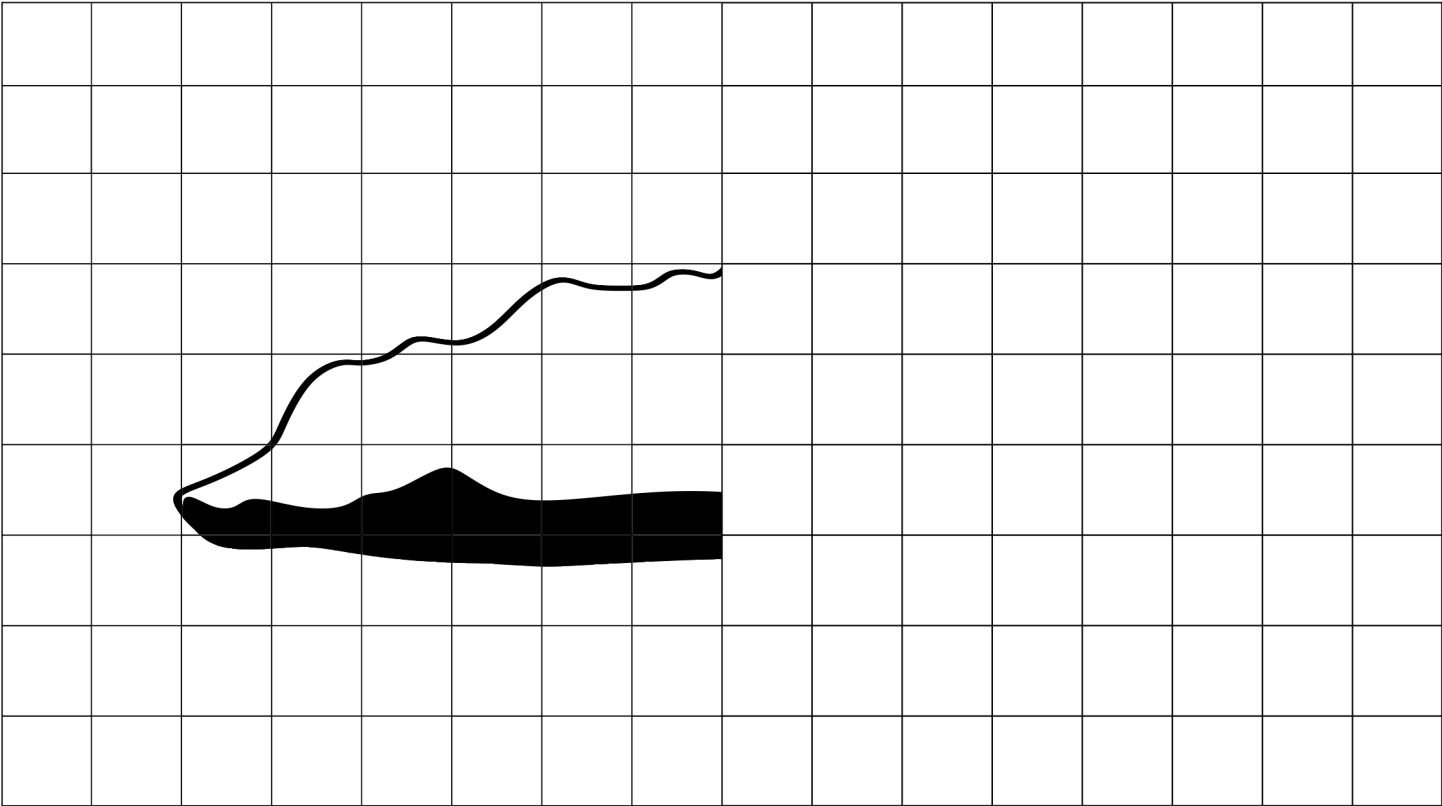
Nimbostratus Clouds

Nimbostratus: Nimbostratus clouds are a type of stratus clouds which are usually from 6,000 to 20,000 feet (1,800 to 6,100 meters) above the earth, but sometimes can be lower. It is not uncommon for them to be as low as 2,500 to 6,500 feet (800 to 2,000 meters). They are formed mainly of droplets of water and form an almost smooth, even gray layer, but sometimes you can't even see the actual cloud because of the rain or snow it is sending to the ground.

Follow these instructions to draw a nimbostratus cloud on the next page like the one shown below:

- In the first grid, draw the half of the picture that is missing.
- In the second grid, see if you can draw the entire picture.



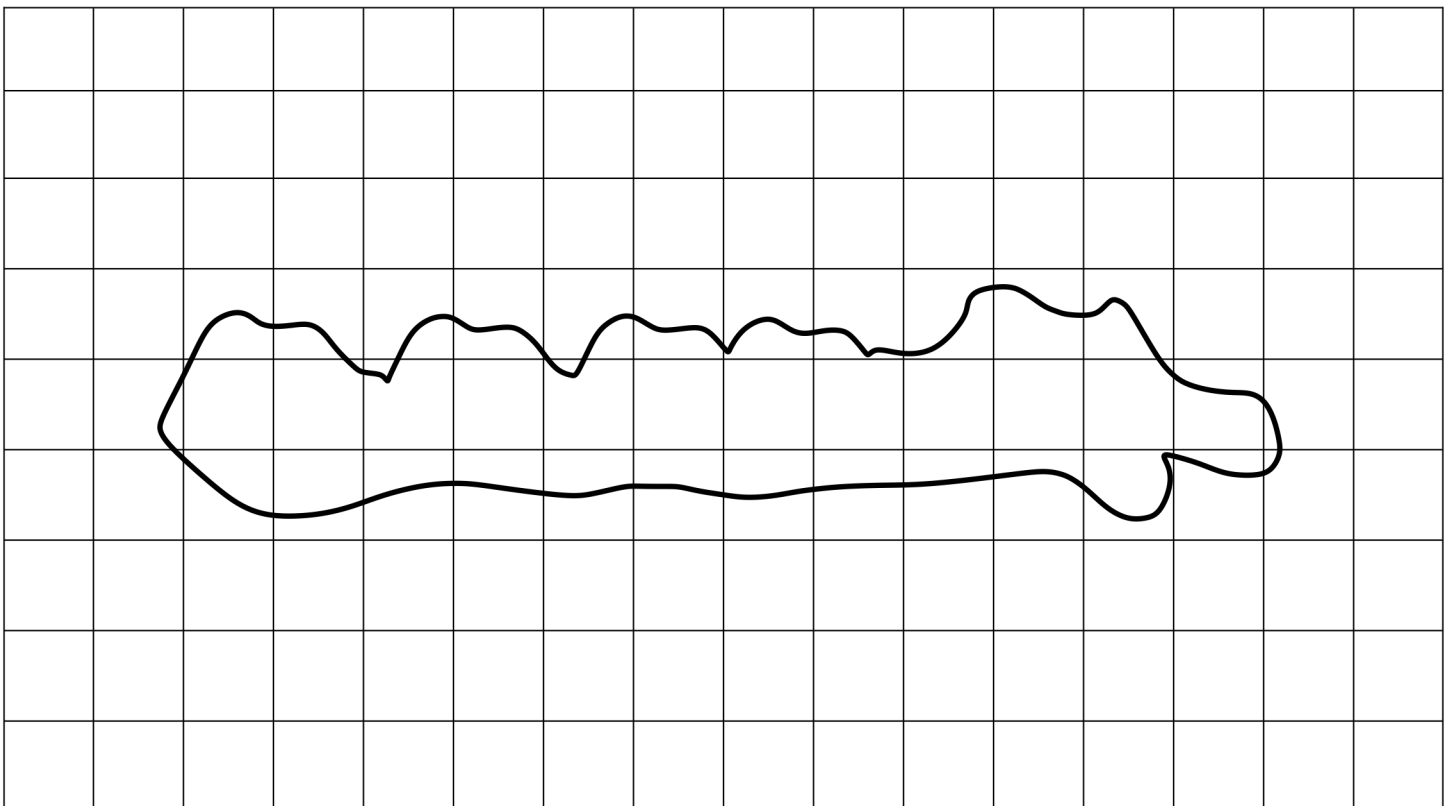


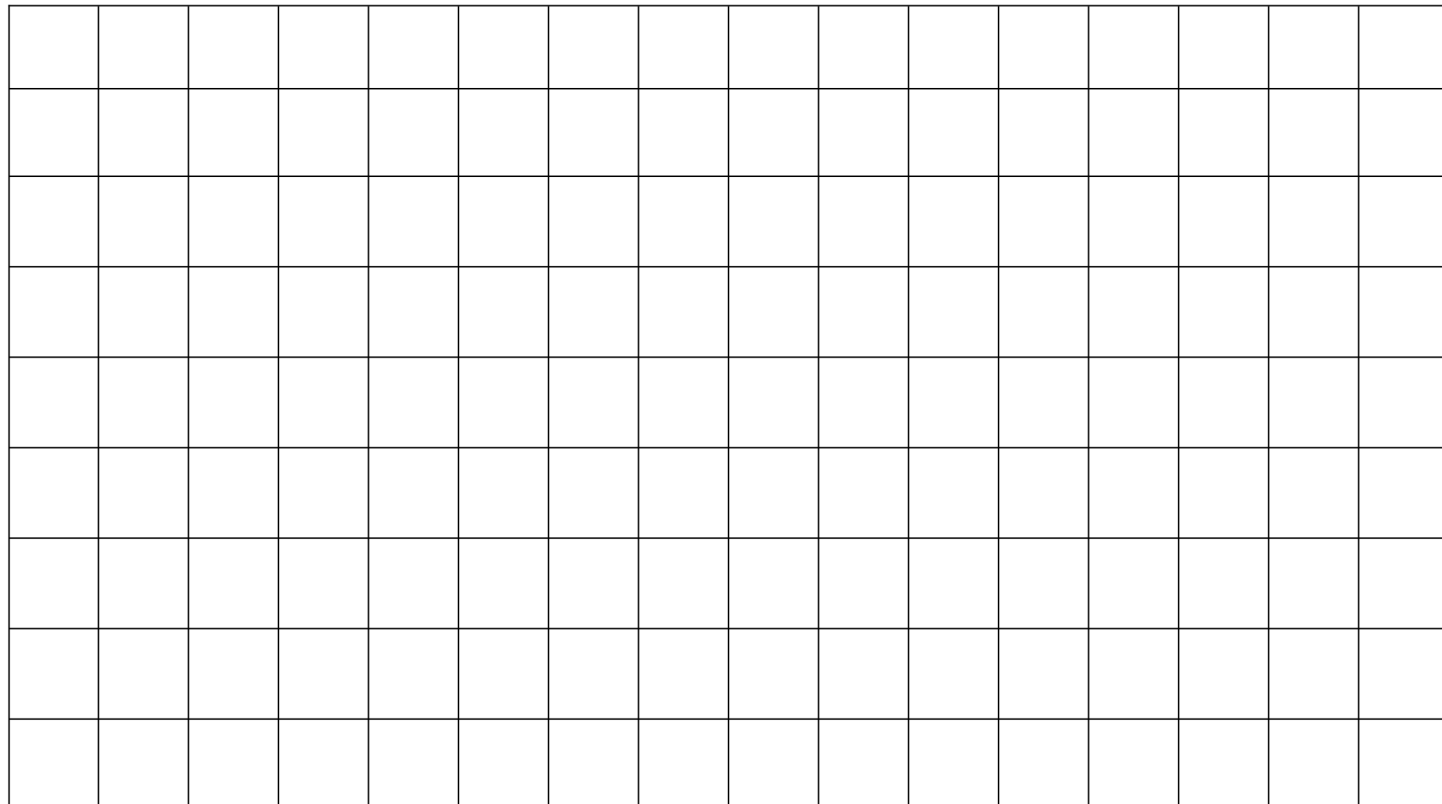
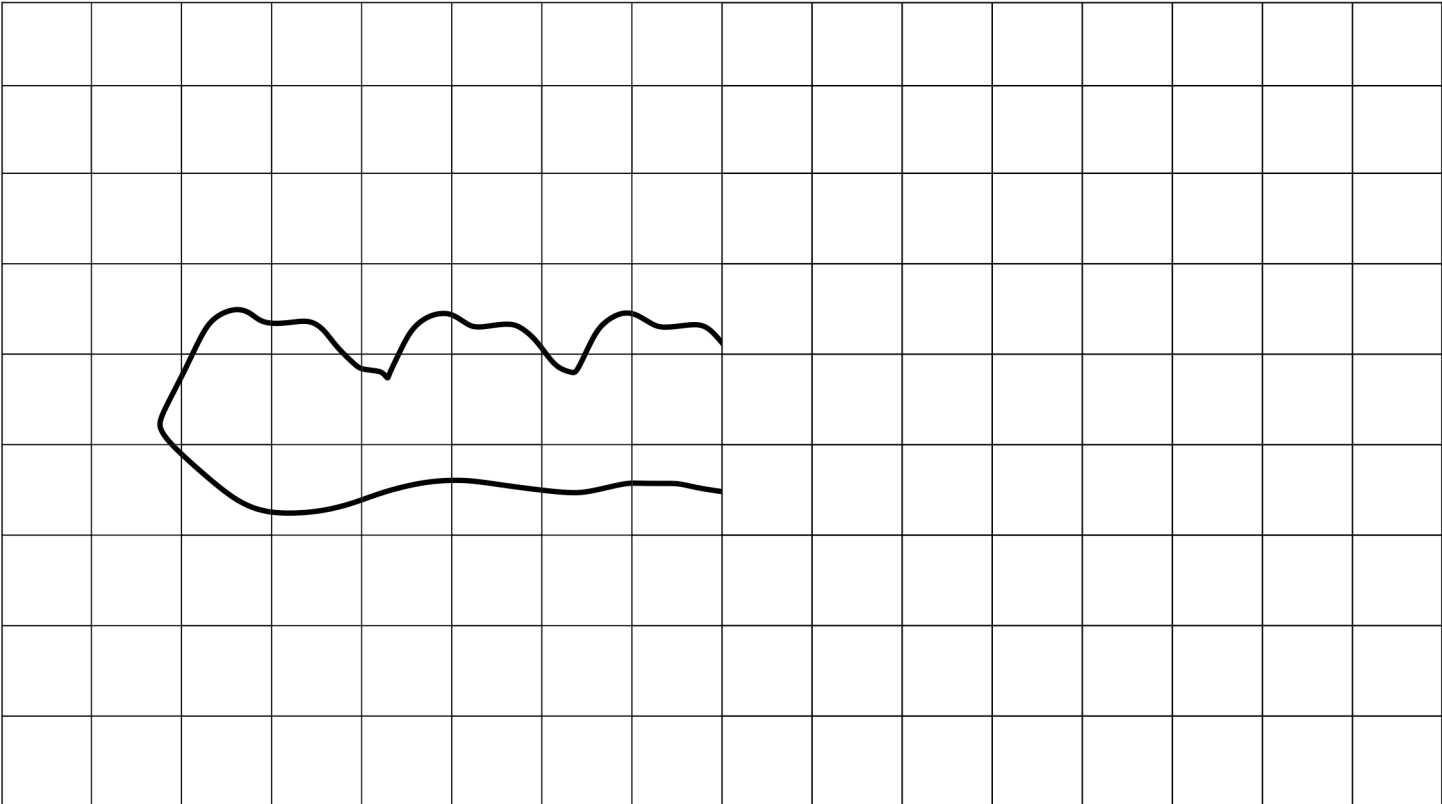
Stratocumulus Clouds

Stratocumulus: Stratocumulus clouds are usually seen at altitudes less than 6,000 feet (1,800 meters) above the earth. As stratus clouds, they form like a layer in the sky and often seem to cover the whole sky. Since they are also cumulus clouds, they are not as smooth as stratus clouds, but instead they are uneven, thicker in some parts than in others. Stratocumulus clouds are formed mainly of droplets of water. These clouds have both dark and light areas on the bottom, showing there are clouds piled on top of each other.

Follow these instructions to draw a stratocumulus cloud on the next page like the one shown below:

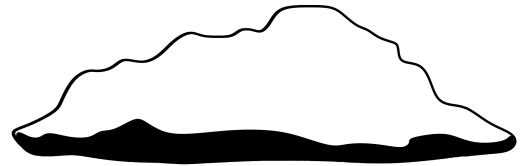
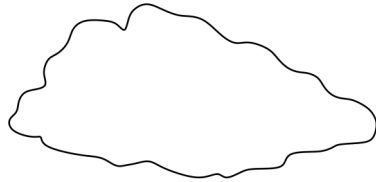
- In the first grid, draw the half of the picture that is missing.
- In the second grid, see if you can draw the entire picture.



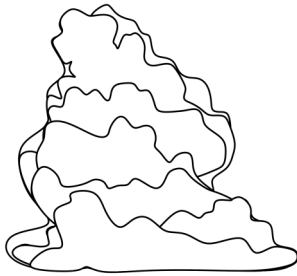
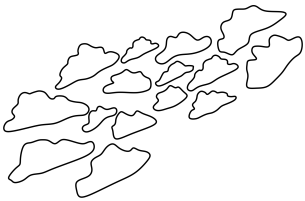


Questions

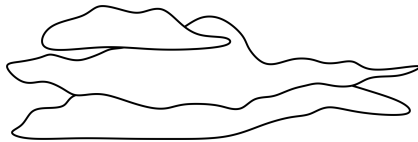
1. Which picture shows a cumulus cloud? Circle it.



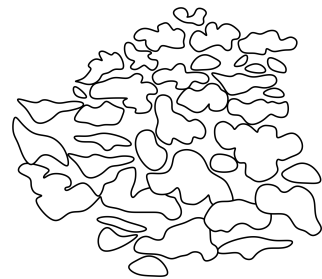
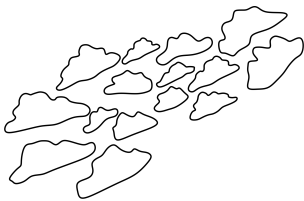
2. Which picture shows a stratus cloud? Circle it.



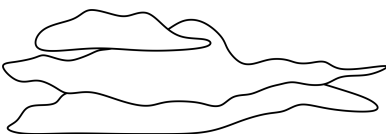
3. Which picture shows a cirrus cloud? Circle it.



4. Which picture shows a cumulonimbus cloud? Circle it.



5. Which picture shows a stratocumulus cloud? Circle it.



Questions (continued)

6. Which type of cloud develops into an anvil shape on top and can produce a tornado?

Cirrus

Stratus

Cumulonimbus

7. Which type of cloud is very high in the sky and looks like little threads of smoke curling up from a fire?

Stratus

Altostratus

Cirrus

8. What does *cumulo-* mean?

Pile or heap

In layers or sheets

Thin curl

9. What does *cirro-* mean?

Pile or heap

In layers or sheets

Thin curl

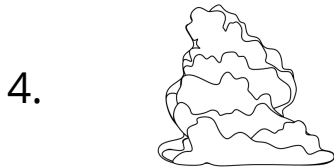
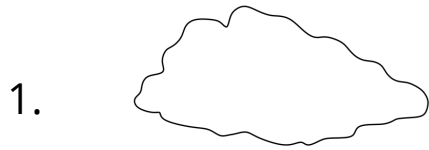
10. What does *strato-* mean?

Pile or heap

In layers or sheets

Thin curl

Answer Key



6. Cumulonimbus

7. Cirrus

8. Pile or heap

9. Thin curl

10. In layers or sheets

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