

# Mapping Cloud Motion and Change

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## Questions

Do all of the clouds in the sky move in the same direction?

Do they change shape while they move?

## Materials

Plastic mirrors

China marker or dry erase magic markers

Cloth or paper to erase marks

Compass (not needed for young children – let them describe where the clouds move to)

## Activity

Use the mirror and the special markers (china markers) to map the directions of cloud motion and watch the changes in cloud shape.

### First

Use the compass to find North. Draw an arrow pointing north on the mirror.

### Second

Align the long axis of the mirror in a specific direction, say north.

Keep the mirror horizontal and watch the clouds through the mirror, trace the outline of a small cloud or edge of a large cloud.

Wait for a minute or two, and trace the location of the cloud or edge. By tracking the center of outline in the two cloud outlines or specific features that appear in both cloud outlines. Calculate the direction in direction quadrants, such as NNW, SSW, etc.

### Helpful Hint

To keep head positioned, draw in the skyline that is visible and then keep this aligned while watching the clouds.

### Safety

Position mirror so you don't have glare from the Sun.