# **Basic Clouds Types**



- High Clouds
- Middle Clouds
- Low Clouds





# **High Clouds: Definition**

- Above 6 km
- Composed of Ice Crystals





# **High Clouds Names**

- Cirrus (Ci)
- Cirrostratus (Cs)
- Cirrocumulus (Cc)





### **Middle Clouds:** Definition

- 2-6 km
- Composed of Liquid,Solid, or Both



#### Middle Clouds: Names

- Altostratus (As) ---
- Altocumulus (Ac)





### **Low Clouds: Definition**

- Below 2 km
- Composed Mostly of Liquid Water



## **Clouds with Vertical Development**

• Often liquid near base and ice near the top.



#### **Clouds with Vertical Development: Names**

- Cumulus (Cu)
- Cumulonimbus (Cb)





### **Appearance of Water versus Ice**

- Edges of ice clouds tend to be smoother due to ->
- Larger particles take longer to evaporate (sublimate)
- Ice requires more energy to go to the vapor state than liquid
- Number concentration differences (fewer ice crystals per volume)

