

Scientists Name 12 New Clouds

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. authoritative /ə'THôrə,tādiv/ (adjective) able to be trusted as being accurate or true; reliable; trustworthy, dependable
Example: The show is an authoritative guide to the city's best restaurants.
2. determine /də'tərmən/ (verb) cause (something) to occur in a particular way; be the decisive factor in.
Example: She would determine which case had the best chance of success.
3. buzz /bəz/ (noun) a rumor or report
Example: There's a buzz going around that he'll soon be promoted.
4. curiosity /,kyoorē'äsədē/ (noun) a strong desire to know or learn something.
Example: Her natural curiosity led her to ask more questions.
5. recognize /'rekəg,nīz/ acknowledge the existence, validity, or legality of.
Example: The government didn't fully recognize the agency until 1999.



The International Cloud Atlas has named 'new' types of clouds and cloud formations for the first time since 1987. Meteorologists and cloud lovers have 12 new names to play with. The atlas started in 1896. It is believed to be the standard and most **authoritative** reference tool on clouds.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) publishes it and **determines** whether or not to include new clouds. The WMO said you don't need to be an expert to find a new cloud. It said anyone can take a photo and send it to the WMO, and that could one day become a new cloud.

The cloud creating the biggest **buzz** online is named asperitas, meaning 'rough-like' in Latin. It looks like big waves at sea when looked at from below. Another is the volutus. This is a tube-shaped cloud mass that looks like it is rolling.

The WMO said the new clouds could increase people's **curiosity** in the environment. It said: "By learning the name of the formations...we **recognize** 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."

DISCUSSION

1. Do you prefer a cloudy or cloudless sky?
2. Should we learn more about clouds at school?
3. Does naming new clouds make us value our environment more?
4. What do you think of the word 'cloud' being used for digital storage?
5. What impact do we have on clouds?