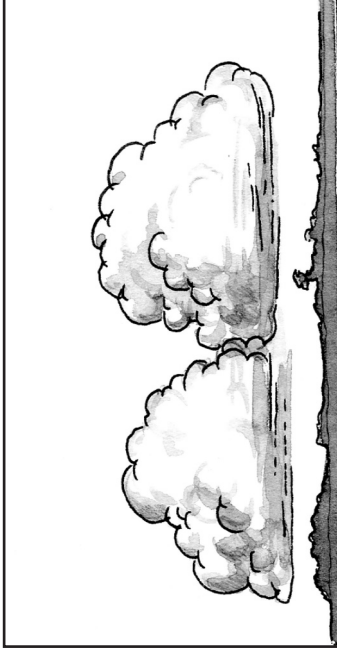


Up in the clouds

- Clouds are named according to the form they take.



Cirrus: Thin, wispy clouds formed from ice crystals and usually high up.



Cumulus: Heaped, piled-up white clouds.



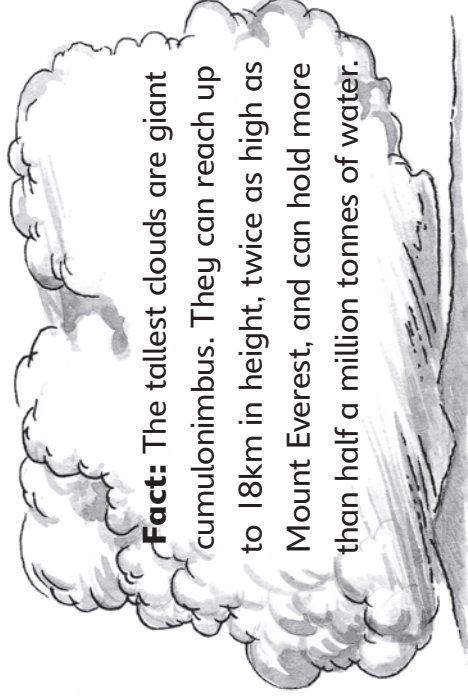
Stratus: Clouds stretching out in layers.



Nimbus: Rain-bearing clouds.



Altostratus: Clouds found at a high altitude.



Fact: The tallest clouds are giant cumulonimbus. They can reach up to 18km in height, twice as high as Mount Everest, and can hold more than half a million tonnes of water.

- These words are often linked together to make description easier. For example, 'cirrocumulus' are tiny white puffs of cloud found high up; 'altostratus' are layer clouds through which the Sun may be barely visible; 'nimbostratus' are darker and thicker clouds that usually bring periods of continuous rain.

