

Why Are There Clouds?

Rolling ominously **(0) across** a gray sky with booms of thunder or serenely drifting in a bright blue expanse, clouds **(1)**_____ fascinating to watch. But how do clouds get there?

"Cumulus clouds, for **(2)**_____, get their start when their solar energy evaporates water from oceans, plants, and soil by breaking the bonds **(3)**_____ hold water molecules together," explains Emily Elert of MinuteEarth. "As the patch **(4)**_____ air above collects moisture and heat, cooler, heavier air sinks around it, pinching it off and pushing it aloft like an invisible hot air balloon."

It's interesting **(5)**_____ note that clouds aren't formed **(6)**_____ only water vapor. Cloud condensation nuclei, which are small particles about 0.2 micrometers big, allow water vapor to condense. These small particles can **(7)**_____ pollen, smoke particles or even dust.

But for a fluffy body that is at least 99 **(8)**_____ cent water, clouds are not as harmless as **(9)**_____ look. As Emily further narrates, "Even in a cumulus cloud, the total energy released from condensation is huge — equivalent to about 270 tons **(10)**_____ TNT."

KEY

1. are
2. example / instance
3. that
4. of
5. to
6. from
7. be
8. per
9. they
10. of

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