

## Quiz A: RI.6.3

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

### Cloud Watching

- 1 Could you predict the weather based on the size and shape of the clouds? Believe it or not, the way clouds look can mark the difference between clear skies or thunderstorms, and you don't need to check the news or the Internet to know what's coming.
- 2 Today, we don't even have to step outside to know what the weather will be. Apps, TV channels, and websites provide us with up-to-date information and forecasts that predict the weather a week in advance. We have all of this information at our fingertips thanks to scientists called meteorologists who use precise tools to measure air temperature and pressure, wind speed and direction, and many other factors that affect weather. Meteorologists also study clouds, but they use satellites in space to see clouds moving into a region from hundreds of miles away. We rely on these technologies to learn if we should get out the snow shovels, umbrellas, or sunscreen. But not everyone relies on technology in this way. You can make reasonably accurate weather predictions no matter where you are, as long as you can see the clouds.

### Cloudy with a Chance of Rain

- 3 There are many different types of clouds, which form at different altitudes. At low altitudes—that is, close to Earth's surface—three main types of clouds form:
  - Stratus clouds form long, flat layers, like gray blankets across the sky. "Stratus" means "layer" in Latin. They sometimes produce a light drizzle. However, stratus clouds do not usually produce much precipitation.
  - If stratus clouds form horizontally, cumulous clouds form vertically. "Cumulous" means "heap" or "pile." They are the white puffy clouds that sometimes resemble cotton balls. Cumulous clouds often form in fair weather, though they may develop into storm clouds.
  - Stratocumulus clouds are combinations of stratus and cumulus clouds. Like cumulus clouds, they form distinct, puffy shapes. However, like stratus clouds, these puffs drift together to form long, lumpy rows. Stratocumulus clouds may bring light rain or snow.

