

The Art of Clouds



Can you guess which clouds the artist painted?



Can you identify cloud types in landscape paintings?

Directions: Take a look at each piece of art and try to identify the clouds. The following slide has the answer. Good luck!



Title: Route de Louveciennes

Artist: Camille Pissarro, a nineteenth century French Impressionist painter

There are **cumulus** clouds. The clouds have distinct edges and puffy shapes.



Photo: Carlye Calvin/UCAR



Title: The Beach at Sainte-Adresse

Artist: Claude Monet, a nineteenth century French Impressionist painter

Alto cumulus clouds that look like little puffs are painted with large brushstrokes of soft white and blue.



Photo: Carlye Calvin/UCAR



Title: Field of Poppies

Artist: Claude Monet, a nineteenth century French Impressionist painter

Low **cumulus** clouds with distinct edges and puffy shapes



Photo: Olga and Sergei Kuznetsov



Title: The Tower of London

Artist: Robert Havell, an early nineteenth century British artist

These are mostly long mid-level clouds called **altostratus**.

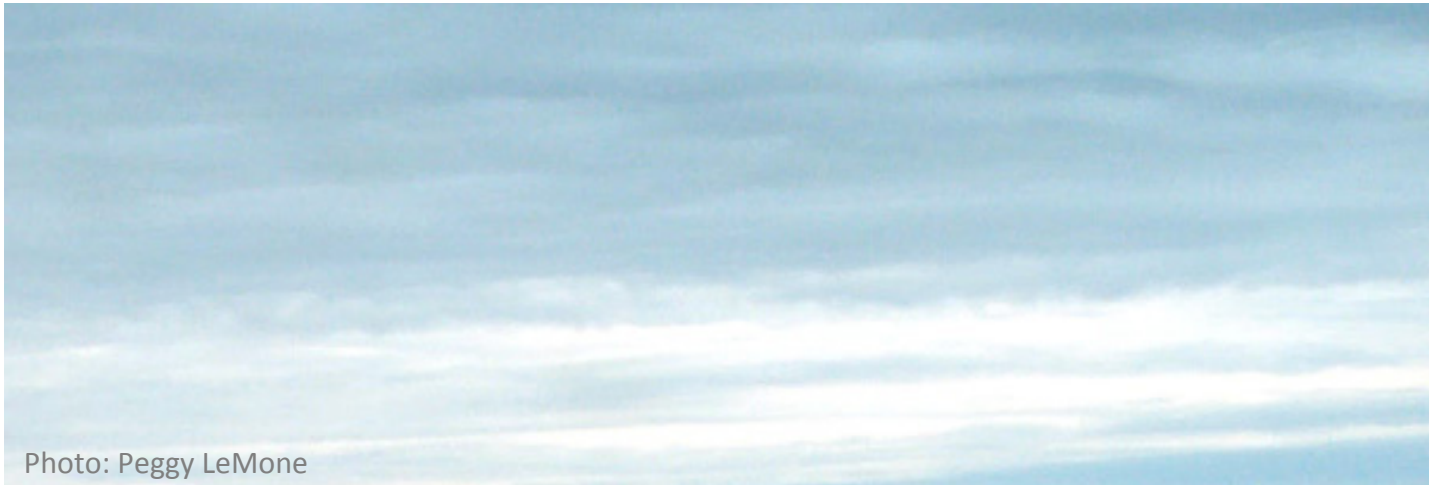


Photo: Peggy LeMone



Title: Seascape Study with Rain Cloud

Artist: John Constable, a nineteenth century British artist

Cumulonimbus clouds can turn dark and cause rain. The rain is usually not widespread. Instead it is in one spot.



Photo: Wikipedia



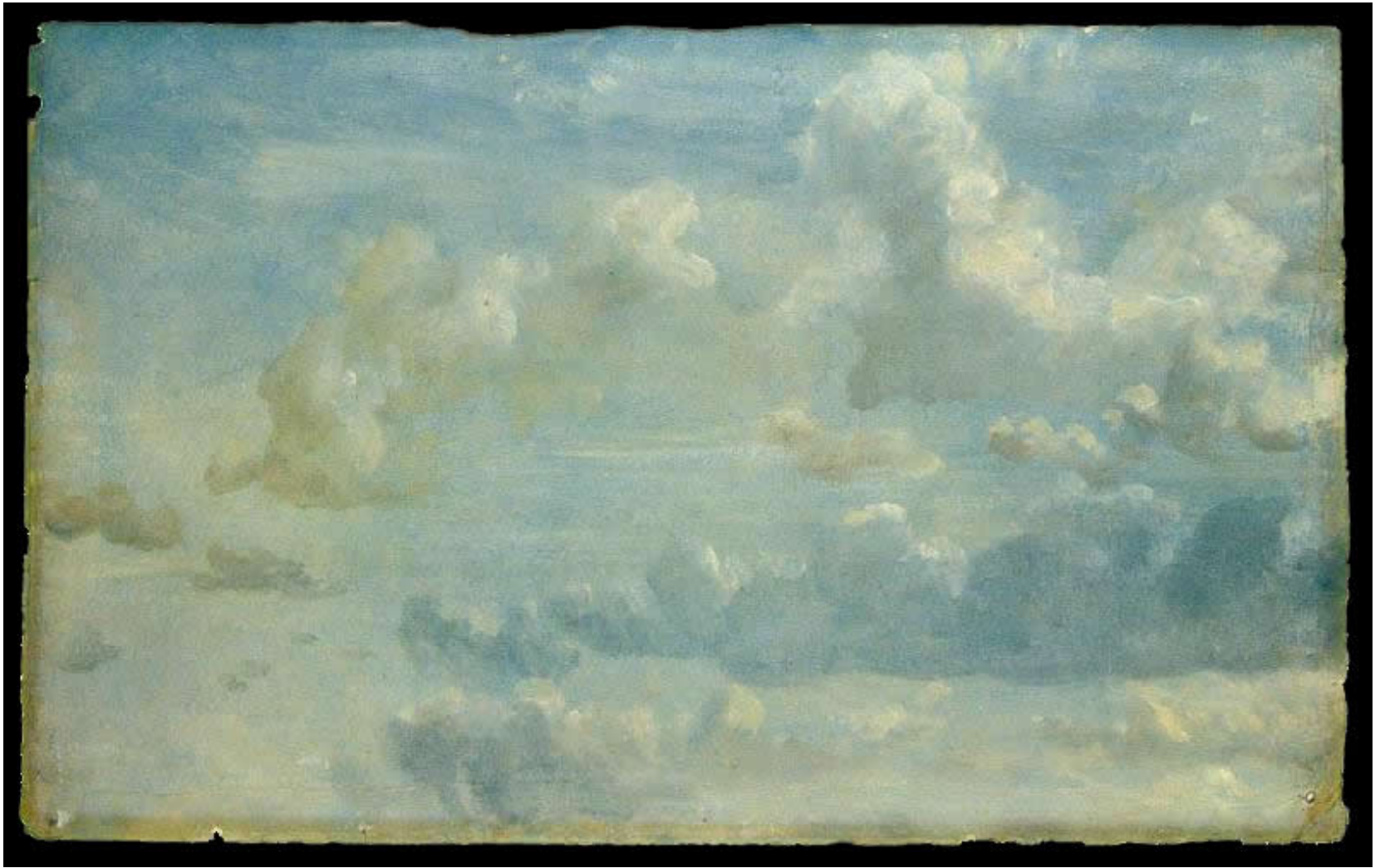
Title: Weymouth Bay

Artist: John Constable, a nineteenth century British artist

These **cumulus** clouds are beginning to grow vertically. They might have turned into a thunderstorm later in the day.



Photo: Olga and Sergei Kuznetsov



Title: Cloud Study

Artist: John Constable (1776-1837) British painter

The clouds in front are **cumulus**.
There are wispy **cirrus** clouds behind.



Photos: Lisa Gardiner (top) Olga and Sergei Kuznetsov (bottom)



Title: Place Saint-Marc a Venise, Vue du Grand Canal
Artist: Eugene Bourdin, a nineteenth century French painter

The clouds that are higher in the atmosphere might be **altocumulus** or **stratocumulus**.
The low clouds look like **cumulus**.



Photo: Carlye Calvin



Title: The Grand Canal, Venice

Artist: Joseph Mallord William Turner, a nineteenth century British artist

This type of **altocumulus** cloud is sometimes called a mackerel sky because the cloud looks like the markings on a mackerel fish.



Photo: Peggy LeMone



Title : View of Delft

Artist: Jan Vermeer, a seventeenth century Dutch painter

The clouds in this painting look like
stratocumulus.



Photo: Olga and Sergei Kuznetsov



Title: Storm in the Rocky Mountains

Artist : Albert Bierstadt, nineteenth century American landscape painter

The clouds have the rounded crisp edges and vertical development of **cumulonimbus** clouds.



Photo: Wikipedia



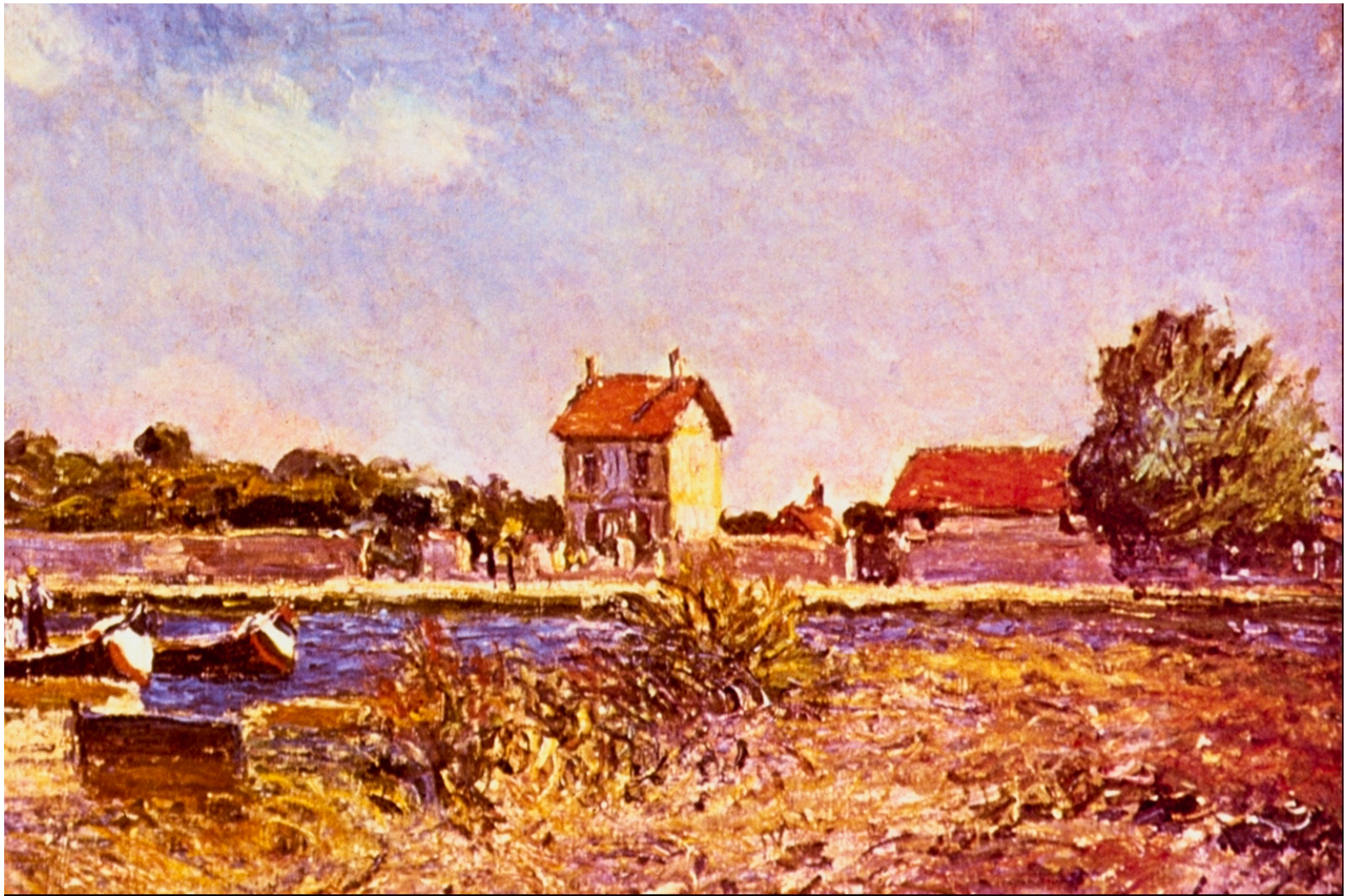
Title: The Lackawanna Valley

Artist: George Inness, a nineteenth century American painter

There is a low and uniform layer of **stratus** clouds. Note that the smoke from the chimney is going straight up so there must not be much wind.



Photo: Sara Martin



Title: Saint-Mammès

Artist: Alfred Sisley, nineteenth century English Impressionist painter

There are just a few small **cumulus clouds** in the upper left.



Photo: Carlye Calvin



Title: Seacoast

Artist: Richard Parkes Bonington (1802-1828) English landscape painter

This sky has a uniform cover of **stratus** or **altostratus** clouds.



Photo: Sara Martin



Title: Le Pont des Arts

Artist: Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1841-1919) French painter

There appears to be two cloud types in the sky:
mid-level **altocumulus** clouds and
lower **stratocumulus** clouds.



Photos: UCAR (top) Olga and Sergei Kuznetsov (bottom)



Title: View of Toledo (Spain)

Artist: El Greco, a 17th Century artist from Greece who lived in Spain

The towering dark clouds in the sky look like thunderstorm clouds called **cumulonimbus**.



Photo: Wikipedia



Title: Evening on the Volga

Artist: Issac Levitan, a nineteenth century Russian landscape painter

These are large **stratocumulus** clouds.

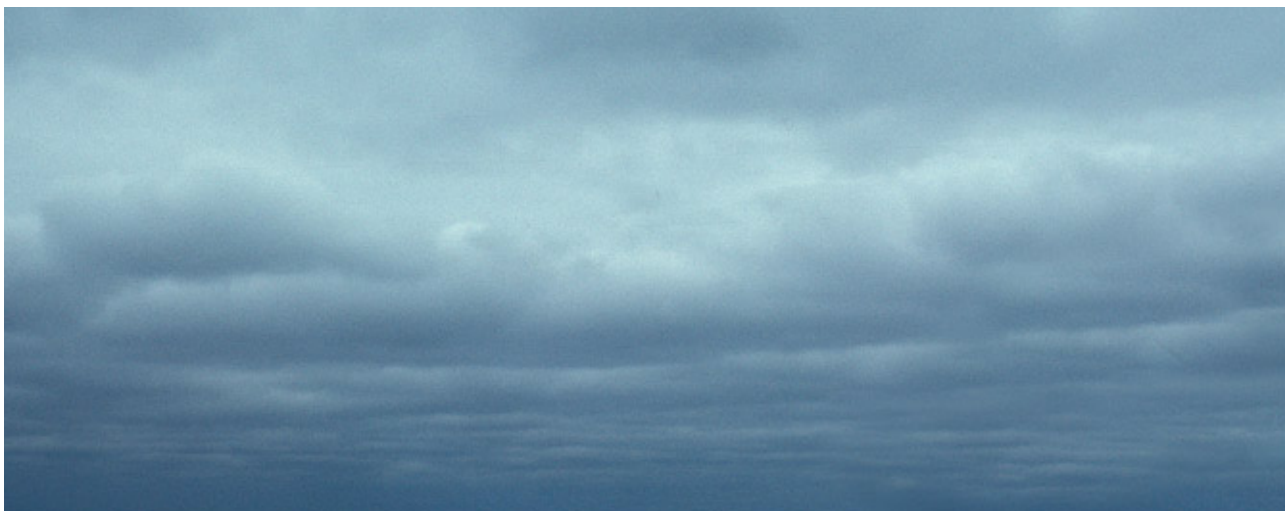


Photo: Peggy LeMone



Title: After the Rain The Lake of Terni

Artist: Issac Levitan, a nineteenth century Russian landscape painter

After rain has ended, broken pieces of low clouds called
scud are left in the sky. Behind the scud are
altocumulus clouds.



Photo: Peggy LeMone



Title: Cloud Shadows

Artist: Winslow Homer, a nineteenth century American painter and illustrator

These are **stratocumulus** clouds.

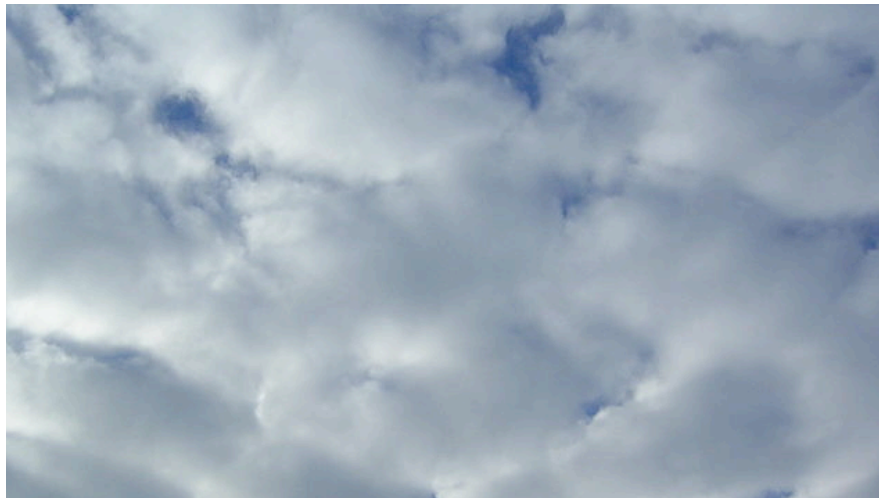
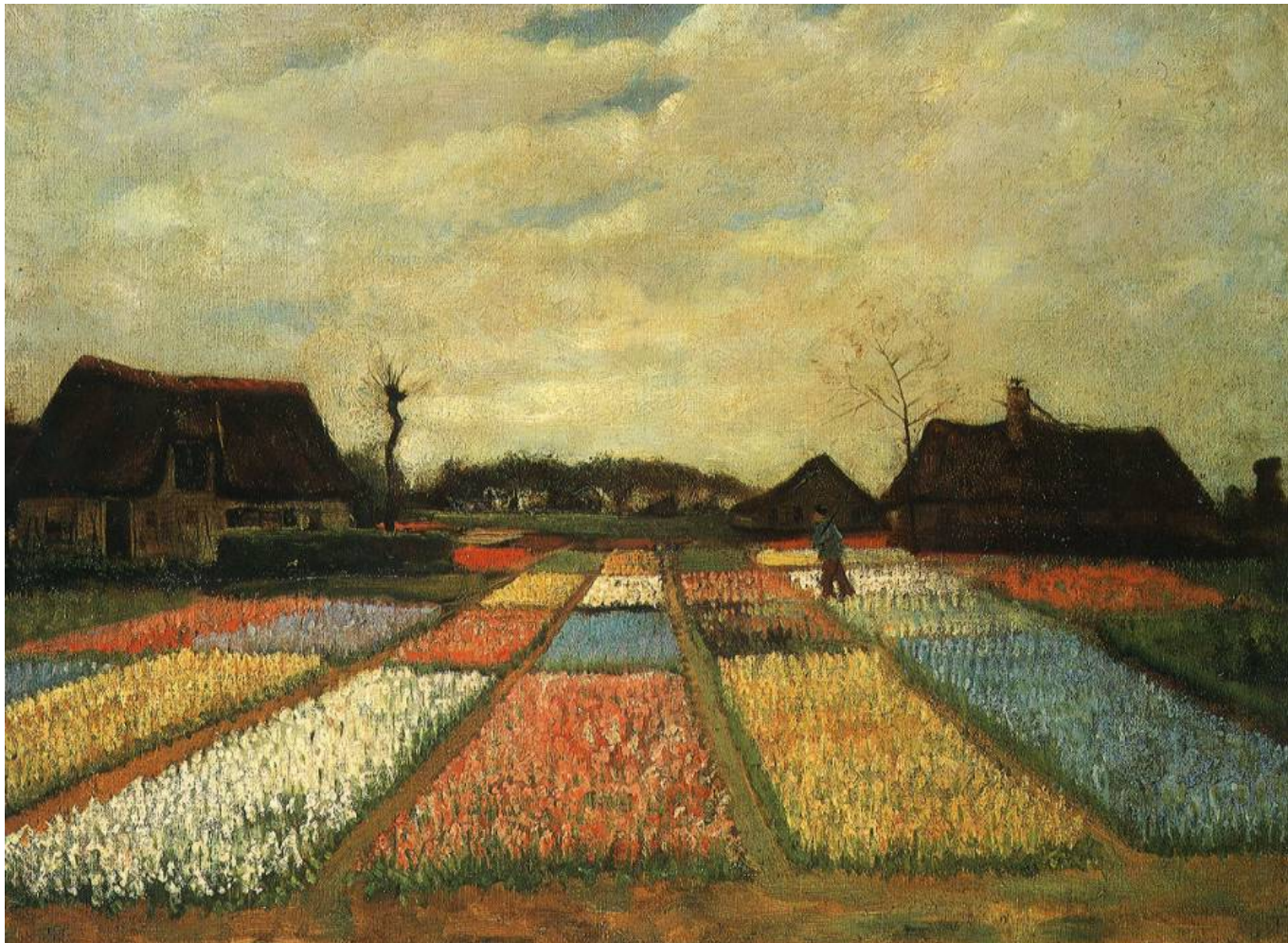


Photo: Wikipedia



Title: Flower Beds in Holland

Artist: Vincent van Gogh, nineteenth century Dutch painter

Stratocumulus clouds look long like stratus,
but are puffy like cumulus.



Photo: Peggy LeMone



Title: Wheat Field with Cypress Trees

Artist: Vincent van Gogh, a nineteenth century Dutch painter



What types of clouds did van Gogh see in the sky when he captured this scene? It is difficult to tell!



Title: Altocumulus

Artist: Graeme Stephens, contemporary artist and atmospheric scientist at Colorado State University

He painted **altocumulus** clouds!



Photo: UCAR