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
Altocumulus 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**.
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.
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 \textit{altocumulus} cloud is sometimes called a mackerel sky because the cloud looks like the markings on a mackerel fish.

\textbf{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.

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-Mammes
Artist: Alfred Sisley, nineteenth century English Impressionist painter
There are just a few small *cumulus clouds* in the upper left.
Title: Seacoast
Artist: Richard Parkes Bonington (1802-1828) English landscape painter
This sky has a uniform cover of \textbf{stratus} or \textbf{altostratus} clouds.

\textbf{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**.
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.

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