

**Goal:** Students will analyze cloud formations depicted in Western art.

**Prior Knowledge:** Cloud formations, water cycle (Use “Cloud Identification” reference chart when discussing artwork.)

**Observation:** Display artwork depicting clouds.

**Discussion:** What cloud formations do you see? How are these clouds formed? Why do you think the artist painted these clouds for this setting?



**Supplies:** Construction paper, cotton balls, school glue

**Activity:** Make a cloud formation out of cotton balls

**Process:** Pull apart, stretch or group cotton balls together to represent a cloud formation. Glue cloud formation onto construction paper and label.

**Time:** ½ hour

**Modifications:** Use precut paper images of clouds or cloud stickers to stick on paper. Felt can also be used for the activity.

## Standards

### Science

Strand 6: Earth and Space Science, Concept 3: Changes in the Earth and Sky, PO 3. Identify the following types of clouds: cumulus, stratus, cirrus.

Strand 6: Earth and Space Science, Concept 3: Changes in the Earth and Sky, PO 4. Analyze the relationship between clouds, temperature, and weather patterns.

### Art

Visual Arts: Responding, Anchor Standard #7 Perceive and analyze artistic work, a. Use art-specific vocabulary to describe one's natural world and constructed environments.

Arizona Department of Education: K-12 Academic Standards <http://www.azed.gov/standards-practices/>



John Hampton, CA (1919-1999)

**His Range Out There**, 1975

Oil on canvas, 32 ½ X 44 ½ inches framed

84.28, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Aiken Fisher

The Desert Caballeros Western Museum permanent collection features a selection of works from the Cowboy Artists of America including John Hampton. In **His Range Out There** the play of light on the land establishes a peaceful mood in a scene showcasing the cattle routine of a grazing herd and the land rolling gently in the distance. The impression is at once cinematic and classical.

Brian W. Dippie, *Crossroads: The Desert Caballeros Western Museum at Fifty*, 146 (2010)



Maynard Dixon (1875-1946)  
Clouds on the Mountains, 1944  
Oil on board, 20 1/8 X 24 1/8 inches framed  
96.5, Purchase, Art Acquisition Fund

Maynard Dixon simplified the land around him. He reduced it to primary shapes and outlines and blocks of light and dark. However painted in the year before he died, **Clouds on the Mountains** attests to his continuing fascination with nature's effects. It showcases the Arizona landscape with blue skies and puffy clouds.

Brian W. Dippie *Crossroads Desert caballeros Western Museum at Fifty*, 133, 134 (2010)

Cloud Identification

Cumulonimbus – large billowing clouds with thunder like a herd of cattle, lightning and often heavy rain



Cirrus – high wispy clouds like a horse's tail

Cumulus – puffy clouds, often round like cotton



Stratus – low cloud that seems to cover most or all of the sky like a large blanket

## DCWM Activity

Tour the permanent collection galleries and discuss skies portrayed in the artwork. Audio guides are available for children and adults to provide further information about the artwork.

## Additional Resources

[http://www.wvscience.org/clouds/Cloud\\_Key.pdf](http://www.wvscience.org/clouds/Cloud_Key.pdf)  
[http://scool.larc.nasa.gov/pdf/1-PageCloudChart/Cloud\\_ID.pdf](http://scool.larc.nasa.gov/pdf/1-PageCloudChart/Cloud_ID.pdf)  
<http://water.usgs.gov/edu/watercyclehi.html>  
<http://water.usgs.gov/edu/watercycle-kids-adv.html>

Cloud Identification Guide  
NASA S’Cool Cloud Identification Chart  
USGS: The Water Cycle Quick Summary  
USGS: The Water Cycle for Schools and Students

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*Desert Caballeros Western Museum exhibits in the upstairs galleries and Cultural Crossroads Learning Center rotate throughout the year including pieces in our permanent collection. Refer to our website calendar for exhibit schedules and special events. The downstairs historical displays are available for viewing year round.*

*School tours of the museum are always FREE! Ask about our docent lead tour, student activities led by our museum staff and self-guided audio tour. Boyd Ranch reservations are available during the winter months.*

*Call and sign up for a school tour today!*

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