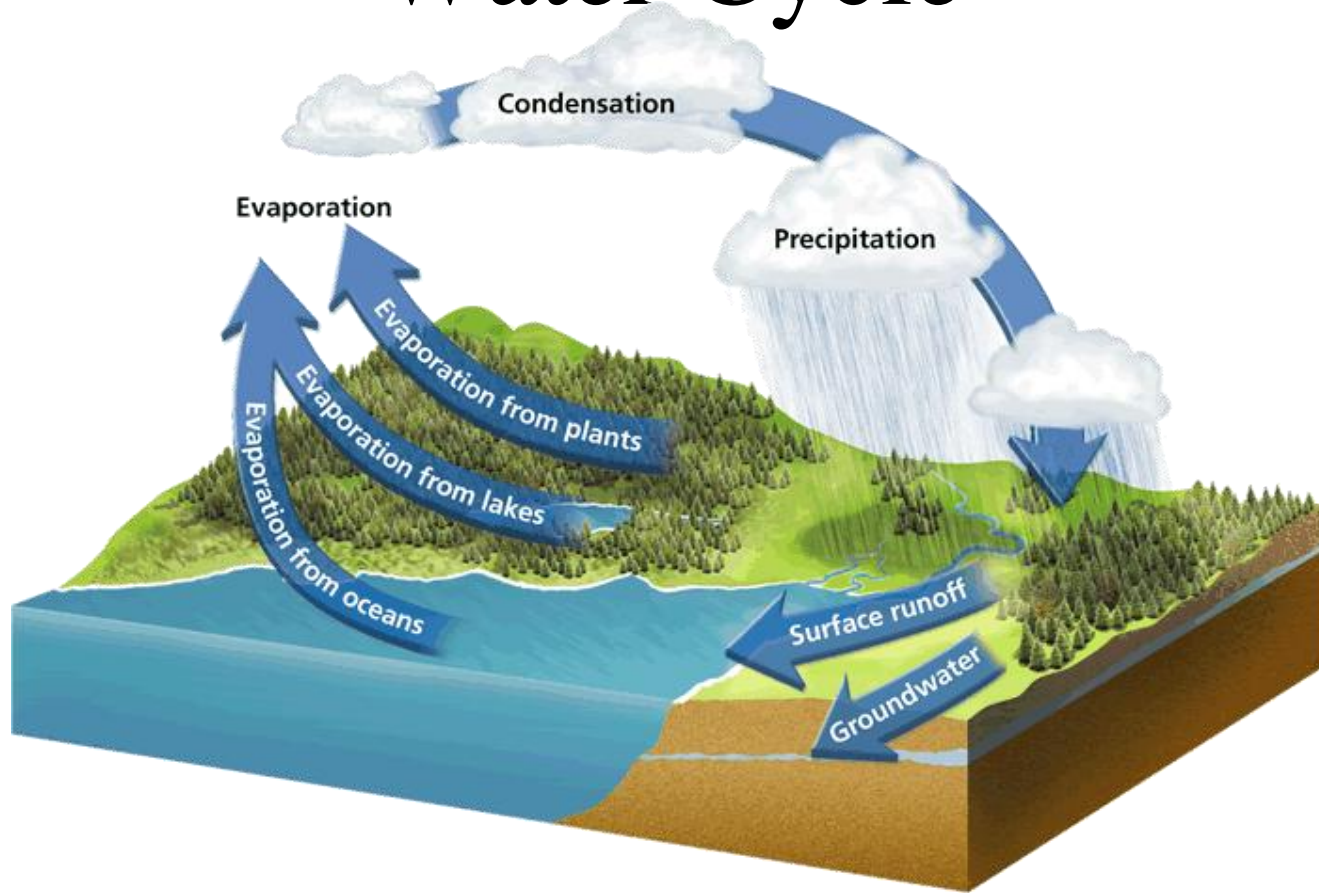
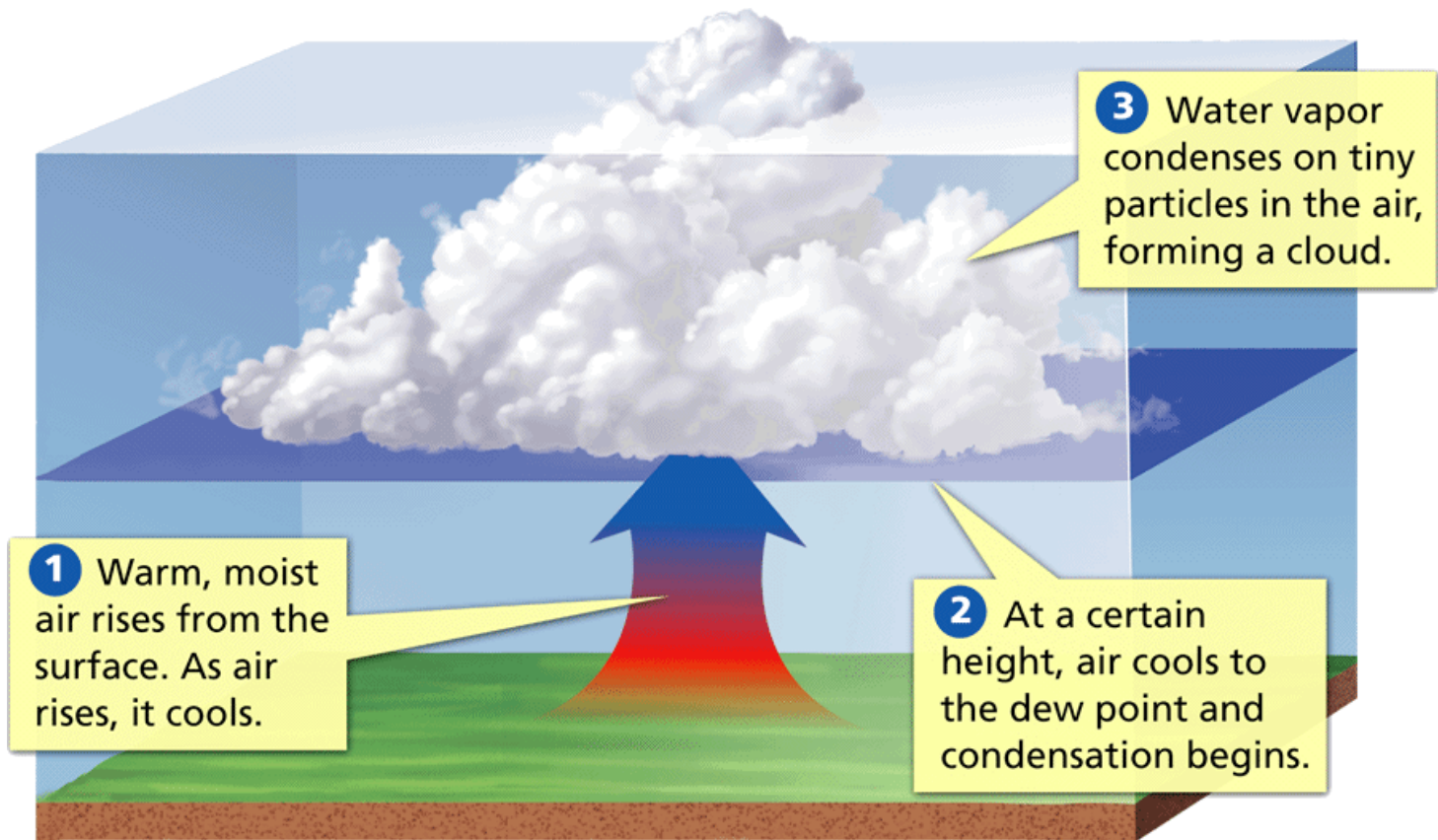


An aerial photograph showing a vast expanse of white, fluffy clouds. The clouds are dense and cover most of the lower two-thirds of the frame. In the background, a dark, flat horizon line is visible, suggesting a low-lying landscape or a body of water. The sky above the clouds is a pale, clear blue. The word "Clouds" is centered in the middle of the image in a black, serif font.

# Clouds

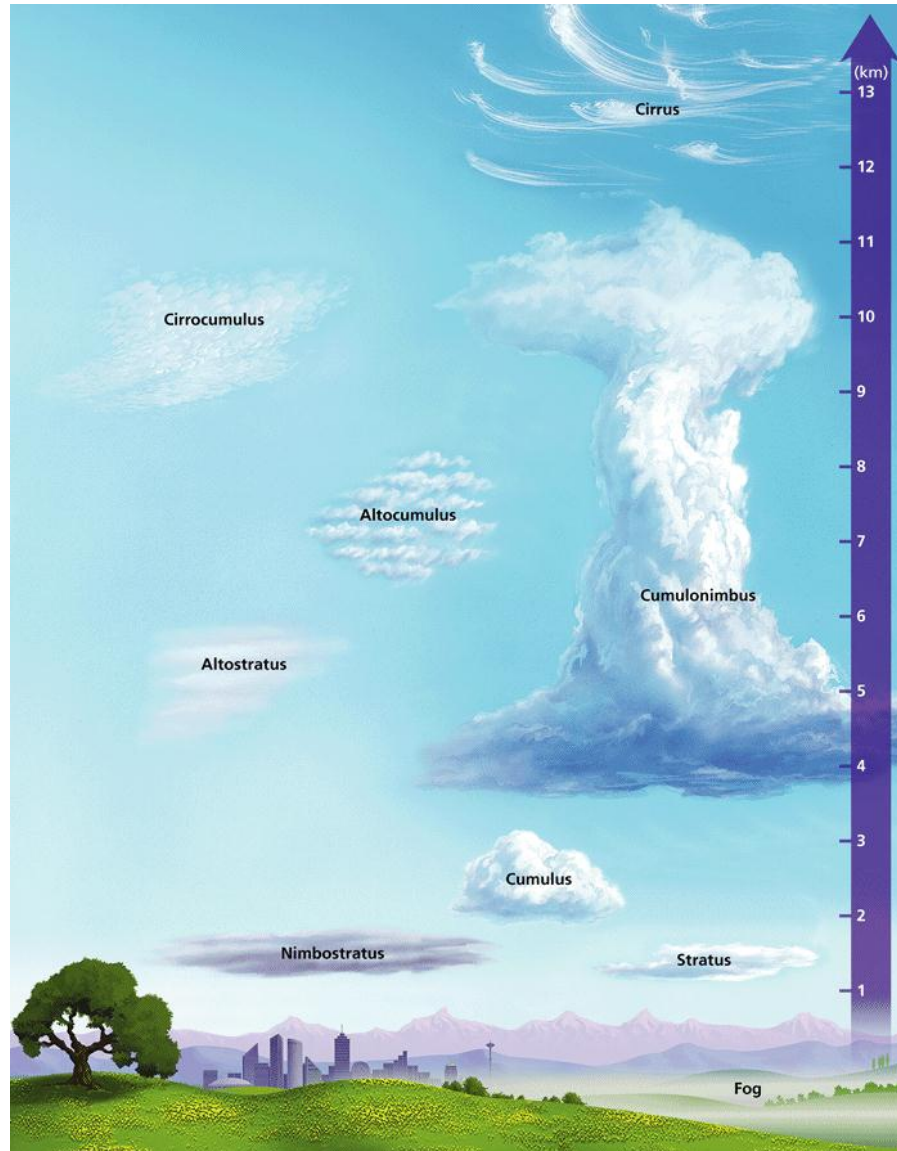
# Water Cycle





# The three main types of clouds

- There are three types of clouds, Cirrus, Stratus, and Cumulus each on has many variations like Cirrostratus.



# Cirrus clouds

- Cirrus clouds are thin wispy clouds usually found above 18,000 feet. These clouds are blown by extremely strong winds. Cirrus clouds form from water vapor turning into ice crystals. Cirrus clouds are so thin because they form so high up in the atmosphere.

# Cirrostratus clouds

- Cirrostratus are extremely thin clouds that cover the entire sky in a gray blanket in sheets. These clouds are thin enough for the sun and moon to shine through them.



## Cirrocumulus cloud



- Cirrocumulus clouds look like small white puffs in rows or lines. When the clouds are in rows they give the sky a rippling effect. The rippling in the sky makes the clouds look like fish scales or it's nickname mackerel sky. These clouds do not cover the entire sky but they reflect the light of the sun giving them a red or yellow color.

# Stratus clouds

- Stratus clouds are dark gray clouds that cover the entire sky. Stratus clouds look like a layer of fog that lifts off of the ground. Also fog that leaves the ground can also form Stratus clouds.



## Nimbostratus clouds

- Nimbostratus clouds are extremely low clouds that are very dark usually making an overcast. The clouds are usually associated with high precipitation.

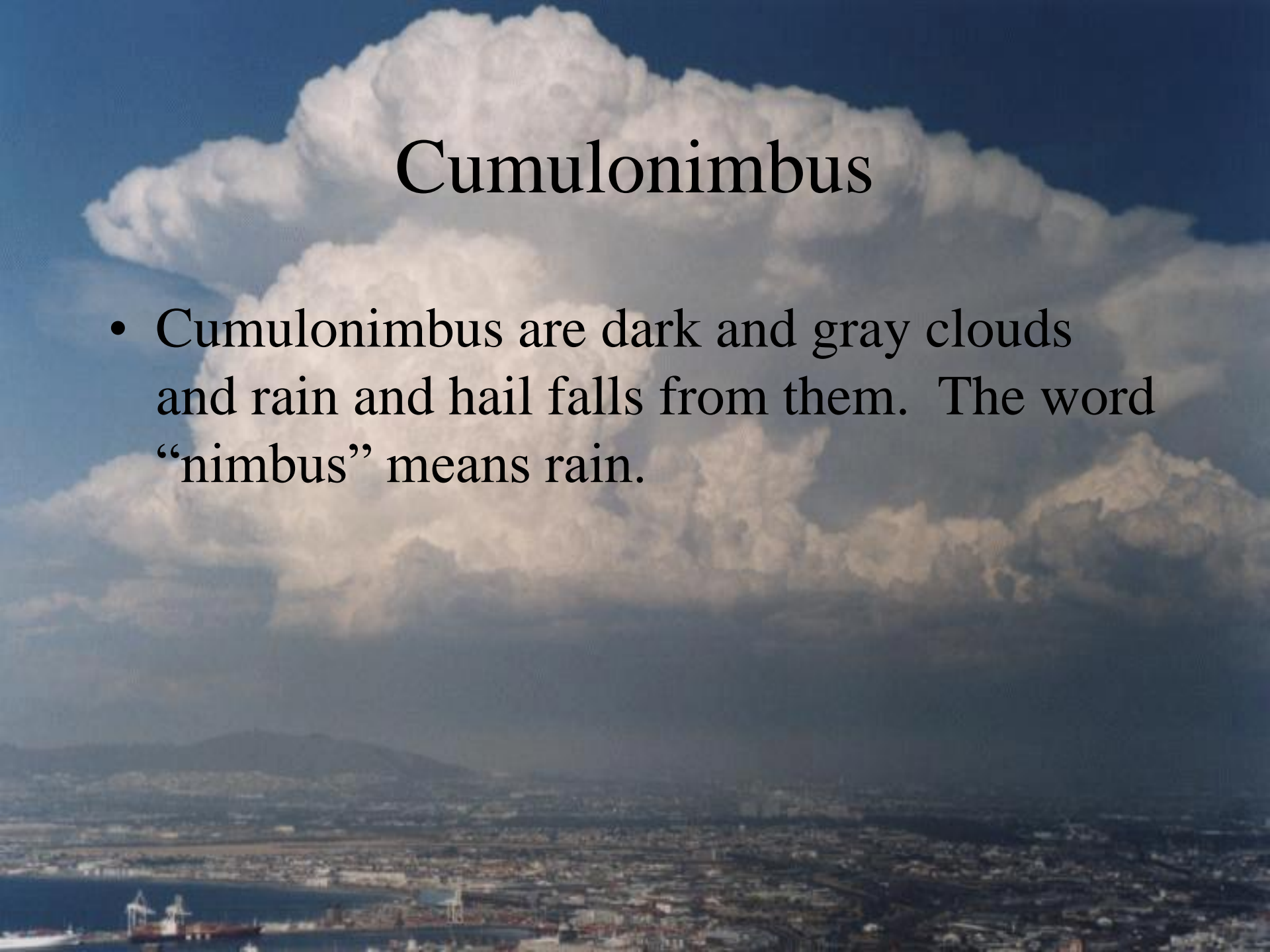


# Cumulus clouds

- Cumulus clouds are very large and fluffy and have flat base. These clouds are usually isolated between large areas of blue sky. Cumulus clouds are located about 6000 feet above the ground.

# Cumulonimbus

- Cumulonimbus are dark and gray clouds and rain and hail falls from them. The word “nimbus” means rain.



***K-H Instability Cloud***  
PSC Cloud Photo  
Courtesy of James D. Rufo

# A few extra clouds.

There are a few types of clouds that fall under no certain group.



# *Lenticular*

PSC Cloud Photo  
Courtesy of Jay Shafer

## Lenticular clouds

- Lenticular clouds are lens shaped clouds caused by extremely high winds over rugged land terrain. Sometimes they can look like stacked up pancakes.

### *Lenticular*

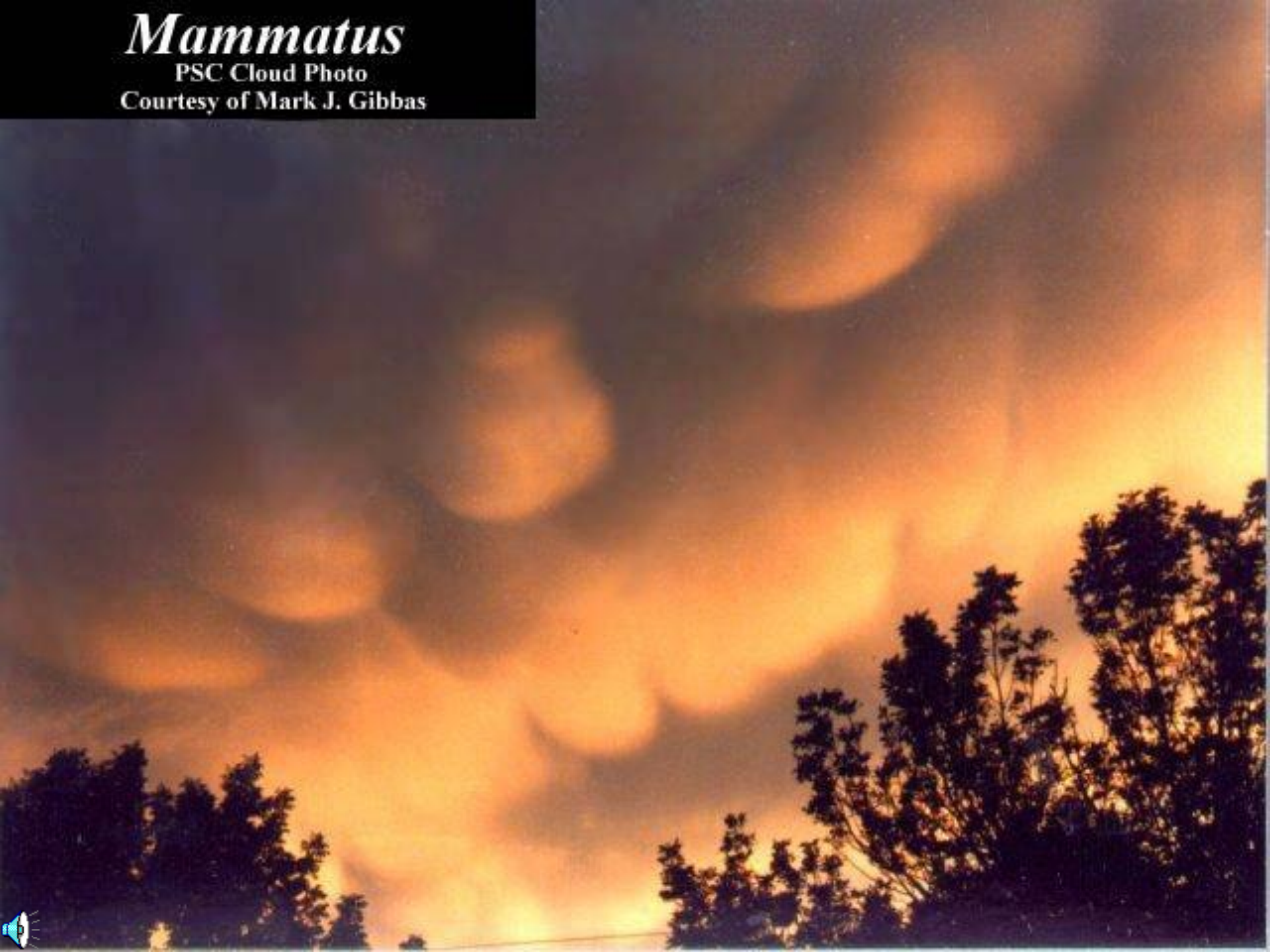
PSC Cloud Photo  
Courtesy of James D. Ruffo



# *Mammatus*

PSC Cloud Photo

Courtesy of Mark J. Gibbs

















7.7.1999





























