



Measuring Cloud Cover

The unit of measure for cloud cover is the Okta.

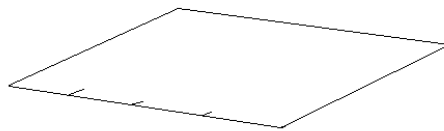
Cloud cover is measured on an eight point scale, 0 Oktas being clear sky , one Octa being $\frac{1}{8}$ of the sky covered in cloud, and so on up to 8 Oktas - completely overcast.

To make a simple cloud cover measuring device you will need :

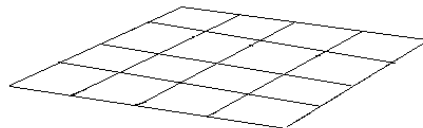
- A square mirror eg a mirror tile from a DIY store
- A ruler
- A permanent marker

What to do

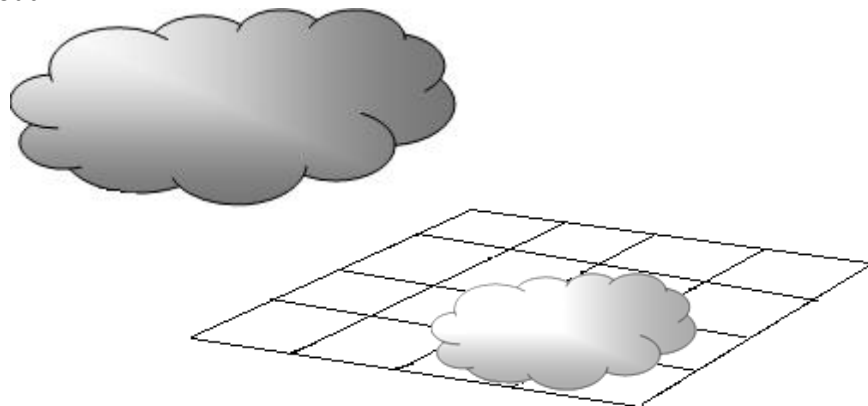
Measure off the sides of the mirror so that each side will be split into four equal parts. Remember, although the square will be split into four, you will only have three marks per side.



Line up the marks and draw in lines. You will end up with 16 squares. Although Oktas are an 8 point scale, the cloud cover must be measured within a square. It is easier to divide 16 by 2 to get 8, than to calculate from 9 squares, 9 being the nearest square number to 8.



Place the grid flat on the ground so that it will reflect the cloud cover. Count how many of the 16 squares contain cloud.



Finally, divide the number by 2. In this example 9 of the 16 squares are covered by cloud, so the Okta cover is 5.6 (round upwards), so 6 Oktas.