



November - Week 5

Observing November Skies

During the month of November the days grow shorter and the skies become grayer. Yes, we turn the clocks back to standard time, moving our sunset times back from around 6 pm to 5pm and we end the month with sunsets around 4:30pm. In addition to the time change, the shortening of day length ushers in the winds of change. One change you may notice is that the November sky often contains more clouds than sun. November is typically the cloudiest month of the year in Minnesota. What's your experience like this November? Stop and take a look up while standing outside in November and your eyes will be met by the sight of barren deciduous tree branches and more often than not, clouds.

Look closely for clouds. If no clouds are present record that. If clouds are present, what are the clouds doing? Are they moving? Which direction (NESW)? Are they moving in the same direction? Do they move at the same speed? Do the clouds remind you of interesting shapes, animals or patterns? Make a sketch or take a picture and describe the clouds. Try to identify the clouds using a guide or the page in the Minnesota Weatherguide Environment Calendar and Almanac. Record the name in your journal.

November weather can be very stormy so find a comfortable place with a clear view of the sky, even if it's raining or snowing. Record the location, date, time and weather conditions (temperature, precipitation, cloud cover) every day for a week, so that you can compare one day to the others. After a week, do you notice any patterns? Did any kind of precipitation occur during the week? Did certain types of clouds come before, during or after the precipitation? Would you say the November sky had more clouds than sun?

Is there a cloud type would you like to learn more about? If so, sketch the cloud type in your journal and add some field notes that describe when and where you may expect to see these clouds in the sky, in November and in other times of the year as well.

