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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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PAPER CLOUDS

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In some California schools children are taught the correct shapes and the names of clouds by a method described as follows in a recent publication of the State College at San José:

"Procure sheets of blue and white paper so that each child may have enough to make various types of cloud. Allow the children to study accurate cloud pictures, or, better still, let them note the clouds outdoors. Have them tear the white paper to form the shapes of the clouds and then mount them with paste upon the blue paper. If the clouds are so extensive that little blue shows through, it may be well to tear the blue to form the portion of the sky showing, and paste the torn blue on the white."

Unfortunately -- though the publication quoted does not mention the fact -- this process is hardly applicable to a majority of cloud types. It is a good enough way to depict in outline cumulus, cumulo-nimbus and the coarser forms of alto-cumulus; also lenticular clouds. The fine fibrous structure of cirrus would be difficult to reproduce, and much patience would be needed to represent the great number of tiny cloudlets of cirro-cumulus and the finer forms of alto-cumulus. The various kinds of sheet cloud, thick or thin, could not be represented by this process.

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