

Fallstreak Hole

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Photo taken by Dr LEE Tsz-cheung at the Hong Kong Observatory .

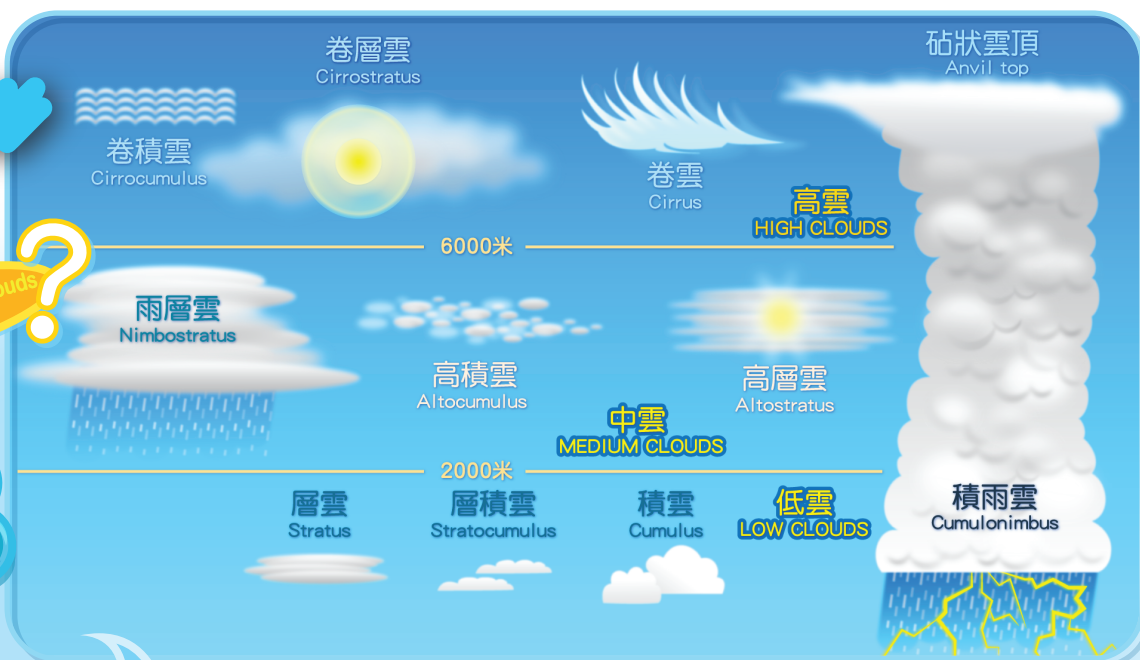
On 19 January, a fallstreak hole appeared in the sky over Hong Kong as a band of altocumulus clouds passed by in the morning. What is a fallstreak hole? Altocumulus or cirrocumulus clouds contain water droplets that, despite circulating at sub-zero temperatures, remain unfrozen. Even a slight disturbance in the surrounding air current, for example when an aeroplane flies past, can cause the droplets to become ice crystals, and when these crystals fall they leave behind a fallstreak hole.



"Fallstreak Hole",
Cool Met Stuff

Ask Dr Tin

How many types of clouds are there?



Clouds are divided by height into three groups: low cloud, medium cloud and high cloud group. The three groups are further divided into ten types of cloud based on their particular features.

For more tips on cloud appreciation, check out Episode 48 of Cool Met Stuff, "Cloud Appreciation (2)" (http://youtu.be/BdEU_9mvhNo).