TIDESCHOOL

CLOUD TYPE

CIRRUS

Ci

CLOUDSPO

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LEARN MORE AT TIDE SCHOOL
MODULE 8 (CLOUDS)

STRATUS

SOMETIMES
BY A THUN

ALTOSTRATUS

FAIR

FLUFFY
COTTON
WOOL

As

LARGE
TOWERING
DARK BASE

Ns

NIMBOSTRATUS

ROLL
WITH S
HEAVY S

IN
VEIL
HALO

DELICATE
WHISPY
STRANDS

St

STRATUS

STRATOC

FOLLOWED
M FRONT

SOMETIMES FOLLOWED
BY A WARM FRONT

CREATIVE SESSION 8

CLOUD SPOTTER

ABOUT CLOUD SPOTTING

Being able to identify different clouds is an invaluable skill when out on the water, helping you predict any changes in the wind and weather with a quick glance to the sky.

There are ten main types of clouds and their names are made up from just five simple words; cumulus, stratus, nimbus, cirrus, alto. By understanding the words in a clouds' name you can immediately get an idea of what to expect; cumulus means 'fluffy', stratus is a 'layer', nimbus brings rain, cirrus is 'whispy' and alto refers to mid-altitude clouds. So if somebody said a cloud was Nimbostratus you would expect a layer of rain clouds. In contrast, Cumulonimbus are 'cotton-wool' rain clouds. These are undoubtedly the most dramatic cloud type and can bring heavy showers, hail, thunder and lightning.

Some clouds are easier to spot than others, but by taking a note of their key characteristics you can get an idea of what it may be. The idea of this Creative Session is to provide you with a tool helping spot clouds. Print it off, cut out the two wheels, attach them together with a split pin and head out to the beach, matching the sky with the cloud that most resembles it. You'll then be able to see what the cloud is and the typical weather conditions to expect with it. Bear in mind that this is just a simple guide; in Module 8 we'll be exploring in more detail the knowledge you can gain from observing clouds. In the meantime, enjoy the Creative Session!

To find out more about clouds, see Tide School Module 8

INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1

To assemble this Cloud Spotter you will need <u>scissors</u> for cutting the main shapes and a <u>stanley knife</u> or scalpel for cutting out the inner windows. For the pin point marked with ⊕ you can use everyday paper fasteners or for the best results we recommend <u>binding screws</u>.

Step 2

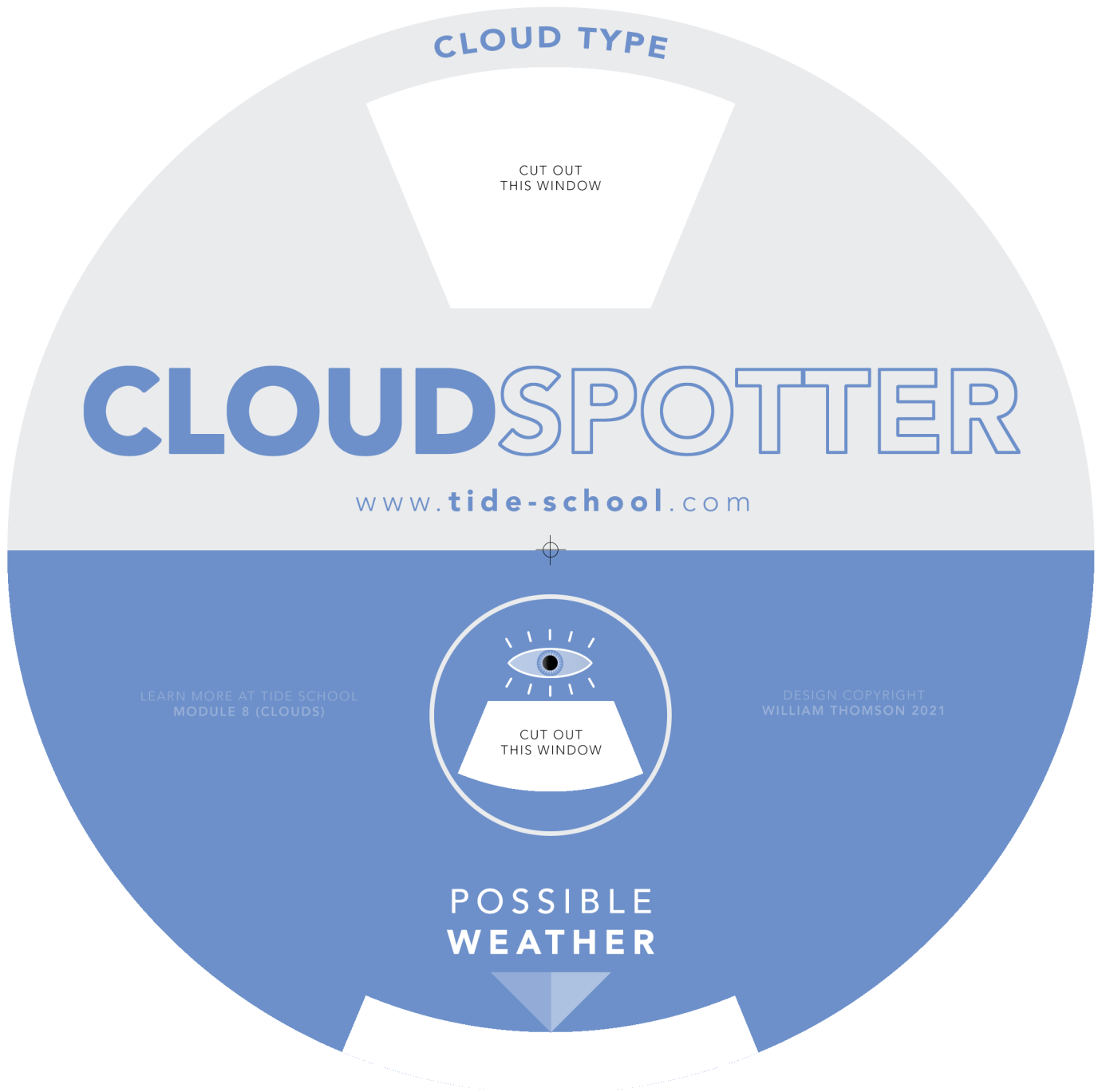Cut out the two discs, front and back.

Step 3

Cut out the two internal windows and the bottom indentation from the front.

Step 4

Make small pin pricks in the centre of each disc where the ⊕ mark is shown, then insert the binding screw into these holes so the wheels spin freely.
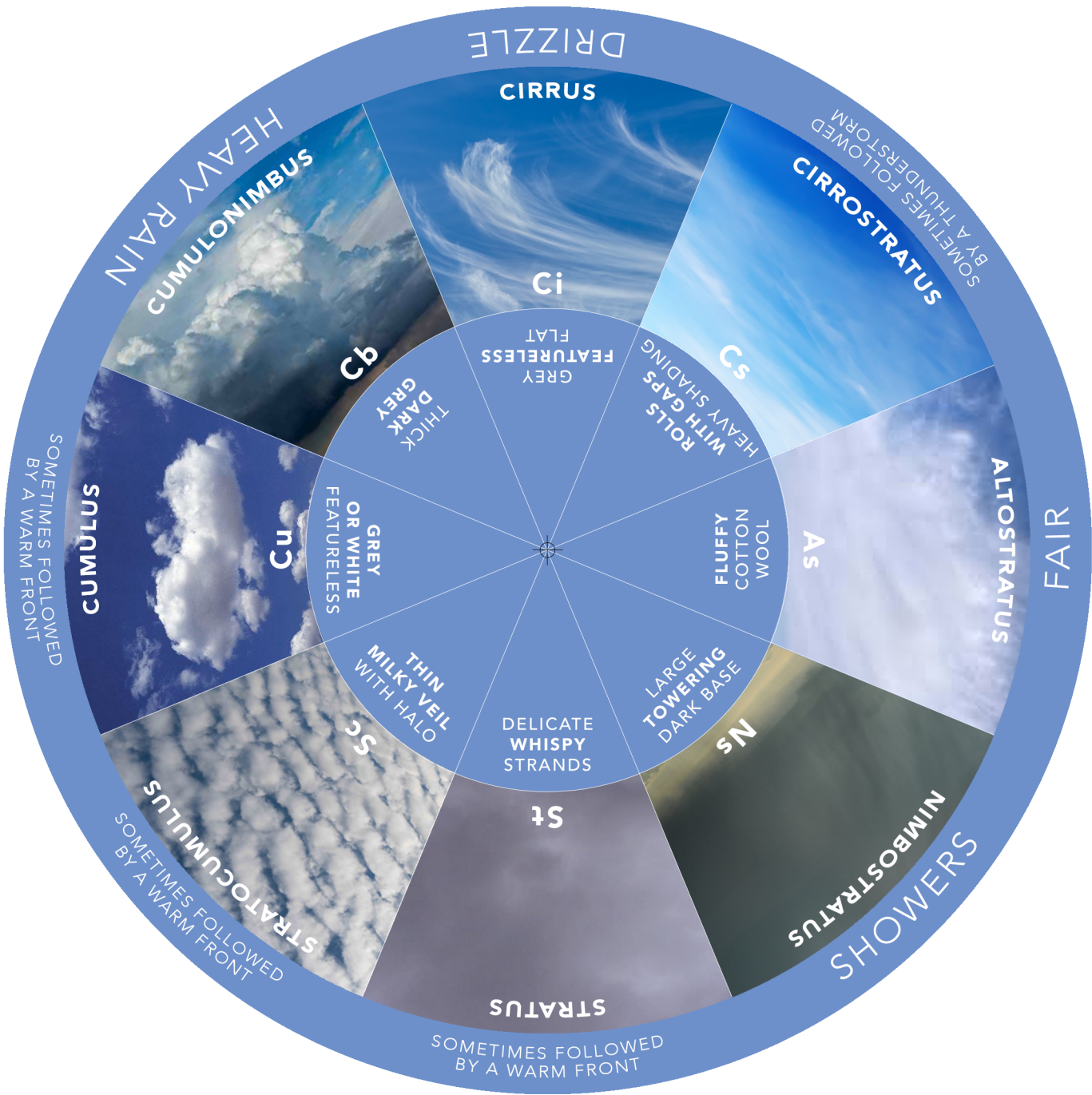
Using the Cloud Spotter

With your cloud spotter assembled, head down to the beach and spin the wheel to match the sky; this will show you the main clouds you will be looking at (the design shows eight of the most common cloud types). Bear in mind that there are variants of each type, so if you cannot find a perfect match this is why. However, it is a useful starting point to know the main types and later modules in Tide School will explore cloud variants in more detail...

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CLOUD TYPE

CUT OUT
THIS WINDOW

CLOUDSPOTTER

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MODULE 8 (CLOUDS)

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CUT OUT
THIS WINDOW

POSSIBLE
WEATHER

Above: The Front (cut out all white)

TIDESCHOOL

A cloud identification wheel with the following segments:

- **DRIZZLE**
- **CIRRUS** — Ci — DELICATE WHISPY STRANDS
- **CIRROSTRATUS** — Cs — THIN MILKY VEIL WITH HALO — SOMETIMES FOLLOWED BY A THUNDERSTORM
- **ALTOSTRATUS** — As — GREY FEATURELESS FLAT — FAIR
- **NIMBOSTRATUS** — Ns — LARGE TOWERING DARK BASE — SHOWERS
- **STRATUS** — St — GREY OR WHITE FEATURELESS — SOMETIMES FOLLOWED BY A WARM FRONT
- **STRATOCUMULUS** — Sc — ROLLS WITH GAPS HEAVY SHADING — SOMETIMES FOLLOWED BY A WARM FRONT
- **CUMULUS** — Cu — FLUFFY COTTON WOOL — SOMETIMES FOLLOWED BY A WARM FRONT
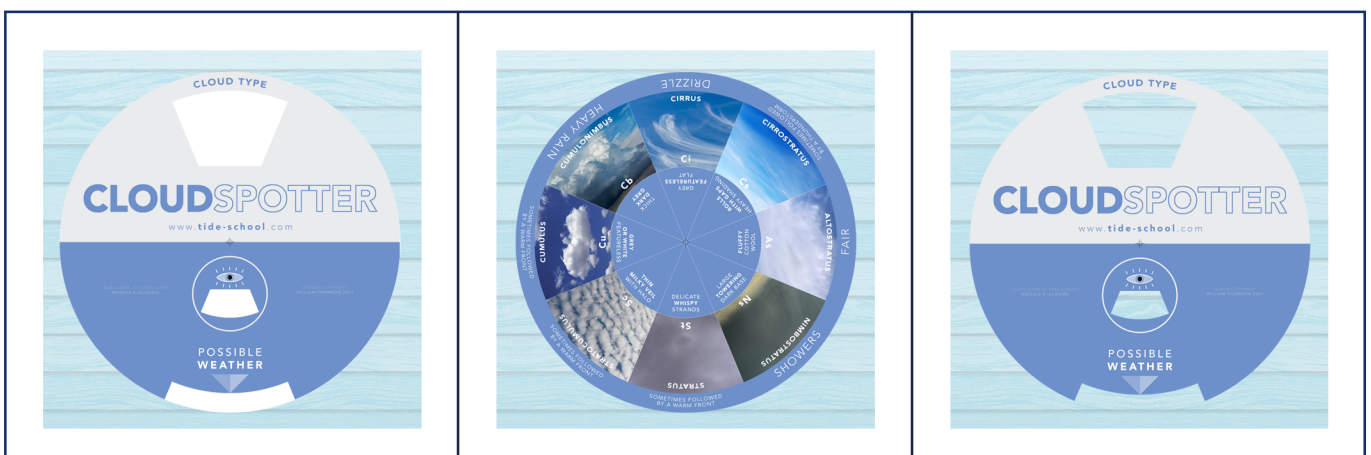- **CUMULONIMBUS** — Cb — THICK DARK GREY — HEAVY RAIN

Above: The Back (cut out the circle)

STEP **2**

STEP **2**

STEP **3**

Share photos of your model!
Tag us on social media @tideschool