

Jello Cloud Parfait (Edible)

Age Range: 3 - 6

Materials:

- 2 cups of Cool-Whip whipped cream
- 2 packages of Berry Blue Jello
- 2 cups of ice
- parfait glasses or any clear containers that you can see through



Background:

A cloud is a large collection of very tiny droplets of water or ice crystals. The droplets are so small and light that they can float in the air. So how are clouds formed? All air contains water, but near the ground it is usually in the form of an invisible gas called water vapor. When warm air rises, it expands and cools. Cool air can't hold as much water vapor as warm air, so some of the vapor condenses onto tiny pieces of dust and particles that are floating in the air and forms a tiny droplet around each particle. When billions of these droplets come together they become a visible cloud. If the clouds are big enough and have enough water droplets, the droplets bang together and form even bigger drops. When the drops get heavy, they fall because of gravity, and you see and feel rain.

Directions:

Keep Cool-Whip chilled in freezer until needed. You want to make sure that it is good and stiff so that it will hold its shape later in the jello.

The first step is to prepare your jello. Pour 2 cups of boiling water into a large bowl and add both boxes of berry blue jello powder. Stir until all of the sugar has dissolved. Now you are going to add your 2 cups of ice, this is going to set up your jello nice and quick. Stir the ice around in the bowl for about 5 minutes until the jello has thickened and remove any left over ice that didn't melt. Your jello won't be super thick like after it has set in the fridge but it will be jelled enough to scoop out on a spoon in a blobby form. Alternatively, you can prepare the jello in advance so it has a chance to set up better.



Next, place a few spoonfuls of jello in the bottom of your glass. Then take the whipped cream from the freezer and press a spoonful or two against the side of the glass. This is going to form your cloud in the sky. Try not to smear any of the whipped cream where you don't want a cloud, it will show up as streaks when you put more jello in so wipe away any unwanted marks.

Continue layering the jello and whip cream alternating where you place your cream clouds so that you get a nice staggered effect. Voila! You've created a little chunk of sky in a glass.

Extra Tips:

This project can be accompanied by a reading of *Little Cloud* by Eric Carle or, for more advanced or older groups, a discussion of how air pollutants can accumulate in clouds and come down as acid rain.