

AA

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Science 8B

2/12/24



A chilly December day

It was a very chilly day on December 2, 2024, 2:10-2:20pm, at Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison, New Jersey. We're located along the eastern coast of the United States. We are recording information in an area at the front of the school. This area had a lot of nature like green grass, trees, bushes, plants, flowers, and even a small garden. Most trees were tall, green, pine trees, but some other trees had no leaves. There was a plot of just plain grass, kind of like a tiny field. I decided to go towards the entrance to the small garden and sit on a bench. I was covered by multiple shadows of large pine trees in front of me; which blocked my vision of the sky. Instead, I focused on the most noticeable cloud directly above my head. This cloud was 'most noticeable' because it was massive, covering a very large portion of the sky, and was closest to me being directly above me. There were also other clouds, but they were far away and not as massive. The color of this cloud wasn't the usual white clouds; I noticed it had a small tint of grey. This made me wonder if it might be carrying rain, pollutants, or other particles. This helps us learn that the cloud is carrying something in it. The gray color might show what's in the cloud. Watching how the cloud moves can tell us about the wind. Since it was windy and cold, I found myself reflecting deeply on this

cloud. I had many questions. How did this cloud form? Why does it have that tint of grey? Why is it so massive? Why does it have that shape? What's its altitude? Is it big or just low to the ground? Where did it form? How long will it last? Where will it travel? As me and my class were beginning to depart from the front of the school, I observed the cloud I saw one last time, seeing if I missed anything or could add any details. I only noticed two things. First, the cloud slightly shifted east. This suggests the wind was blowing east and that the cloud may have formed and traveled from the west. The other thing I noticed is that a plane travelled either through it, or above it. It was very difficult to tell from the angle. The altitude of the plane helped me realize this cloud's altitude was about 5-7k. I learned this from using an app called Flightradar24. I observed that planes that fly over this general area tend to be in ranges of that altitude while travelling west. This means this cloud really was massive and was generally lower than most other clouds.