




Kelvin-Helmholtz




Kelvin-Helmholtz clouds look like breaking waves in the ocean. After wind blows up and over a barrier, like a mountain, the air continues flowing through the atmosphere in a pattern that looks like a wave.

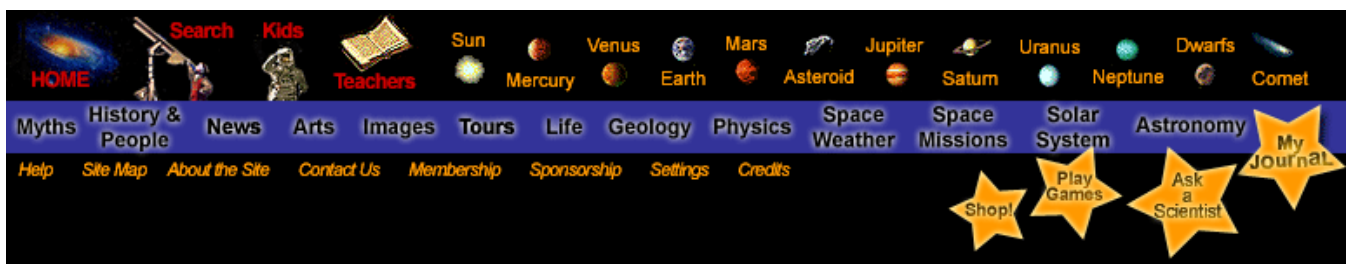
These clouds form when there is a difference in the wind speed or direction between two wind currents in the atmosphere.

This photograph of Kelvin-Helmholtz clouds was taken in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Click on image for full size
Courtesy of Benjamin Foster/UCAR

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Last modified November 30, 2007 by [Becca Hatheway](#).

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