



Mammatus




This is a photo of mammatus clouds, taken in Weld County, Colorado.

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Photo courtesy of [Gregory Thompson](#)

Mammatus clouds are pouches of clouds that hang underneath the base of a cloud. They are usually seen with cumulonimbus clouds that produce very strong storms.

Mammatus clouds are sometimes described as looking like a field of tennis balls or melons, or like female human breasts. In fact, the name "mammatus" comes from the Latin word *mamma*, or breast, because of this.

 [Clouds](#)

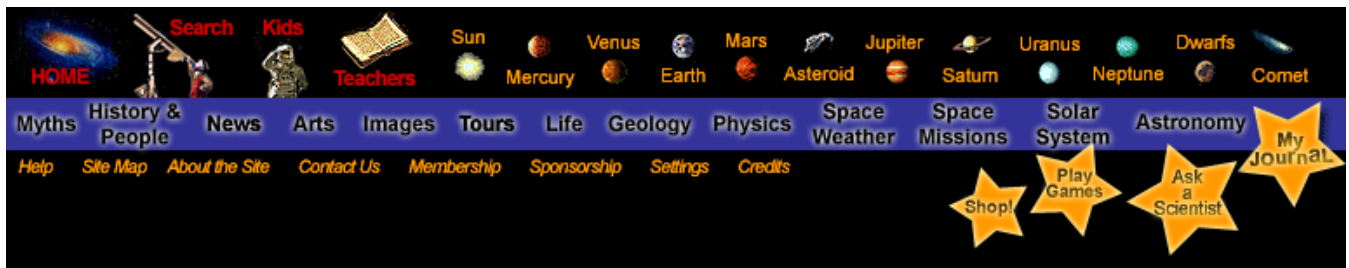
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Last modified November 30, 2007 by [Becca Hatheway](#).

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