

Critical Understandings

Read the prompts below the passage to establish a purpose for rereading. Then, read the passage and respond to the prompts.

Cloud Seeding

Have you ever wished you could control the weather? People have had that wish throughout history. In the past, rain dances were used to help ward off dry summers. Today, a more scientific method is used to bring farmers needed rain and skiers desired snow. This method is called cloud seeding.

In cloud seeding, scientists put granules into clouds. The granules are usually made of a salt mixture or of dry ice (solid carbon dioxide). Sometimes, the granules are shot up into the clouds from a machine on the ground. Other times, the granules are dropped down into the clouds from an airplane. Water vapor in the clouds grabs onto these granules and eventually condenses into rainfall or snowfall.

Cloud seeding was invented in 1946. It is used worldwide today. However, it is still not a perfect science. It is impossible to predict with 100 percent certainty just how effective a “seeding” will be. For example, scientists have noticed that cloud seeding seems to work differently in different climates and in different seasons. However, they have not been able to measure and work with these differences very well. There are also concerns that creating rainfall in one place may reduce it in another.

Questions and concerns aside, experiments in cloud seeding are likely to continue. More is being learned about the various ways cloud seeding may be effective at controlling the weather. Scientists have discovered that cloud seeding can do more than create rain and snow. It can also reduce the size of hail, disperse thick fog, and even clean pollution from the air.

1. **Evaluate** the success of cloud seeding.
