

Storm!

LEVEL 4

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John ran out of school. He was so excited! He looked up at the dark sky and felt the cold wind on his face. 'This is going to be a big storm!'

'Let's get home!' Jenny laughed. 'Patty's scared. She doesn't like storms.'

Then it started to rain hard. Jenny and John put up their umbrellas.

At home, Jenny put the garden table and chairs away. 'The wind can blow things around,' she said. 'It's so strong today. It's going to be a big thunderstorm, I think.'

John had a book which had many interesting facts about different storms all over the world. After dinner, he took it down from the shelf and started to read.

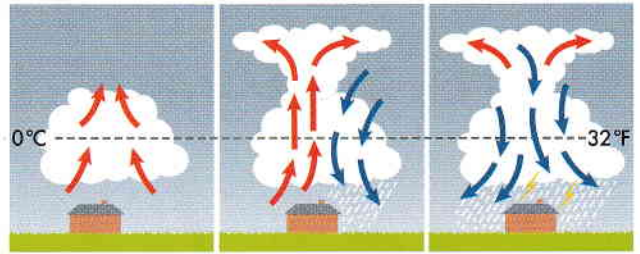


Thunderstorms

We know
books

Warm air rises and meets cold air and this makes thunderstorms. We sometimes call thunderstorms 'electrical storms'. There is always thunder *and* lightning in an electrical storm.

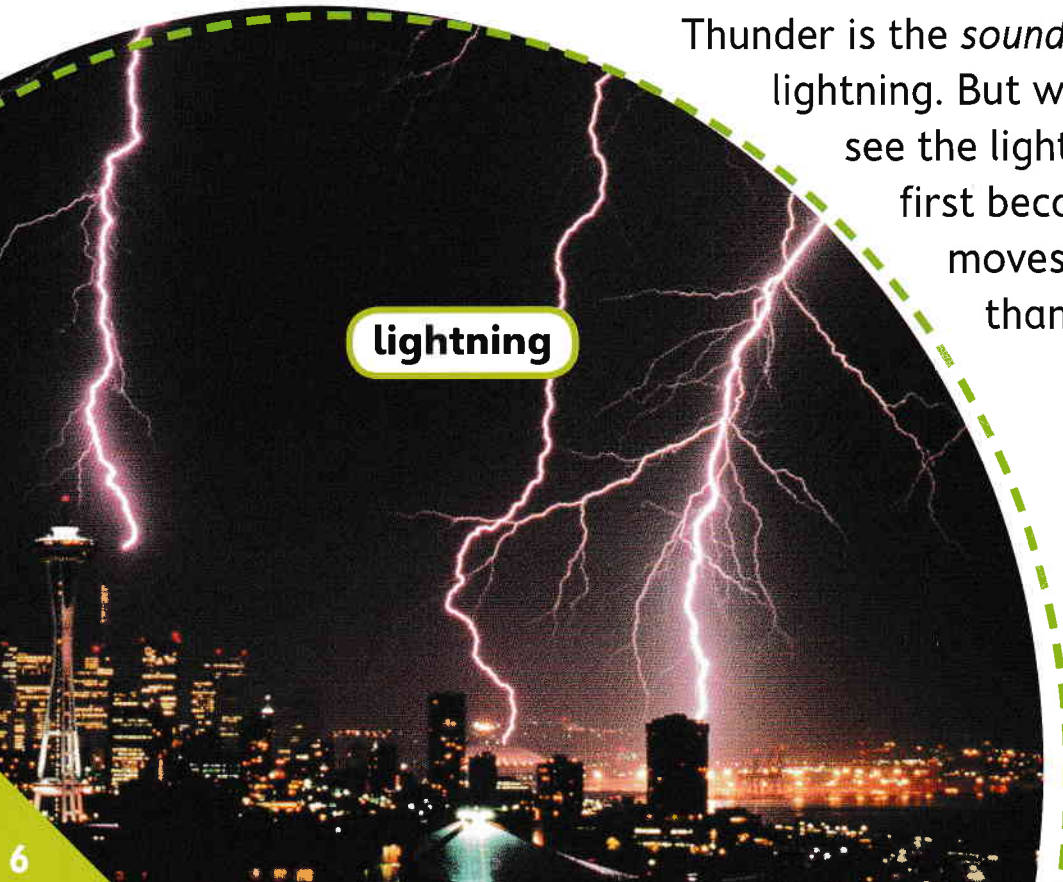
How thunderstorms form



↑ hot air ↓ cold air

Thunder is the *sound* of lightning. But we always see the lightning first because light moves faster than sound.

lightning



DID YOU KNOW...?

You can count the seconds between thunder and lightning. This can tell you how far the lightning is from you. Every second is 340 metres.

I saw lightning and
I heard thunder after
5 seconds.



The lightning
is 1.7 kilometres
away from you!

Lightning often strikes trees and tall buildings. Many years ago, lightning struck the Eiffel Tower in Paris!