



# Weather

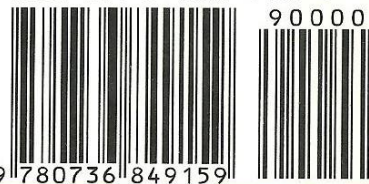
## Lightning

Lightning causes the air around it to become very hot. Find out more interesting facts about lightning inside this book.



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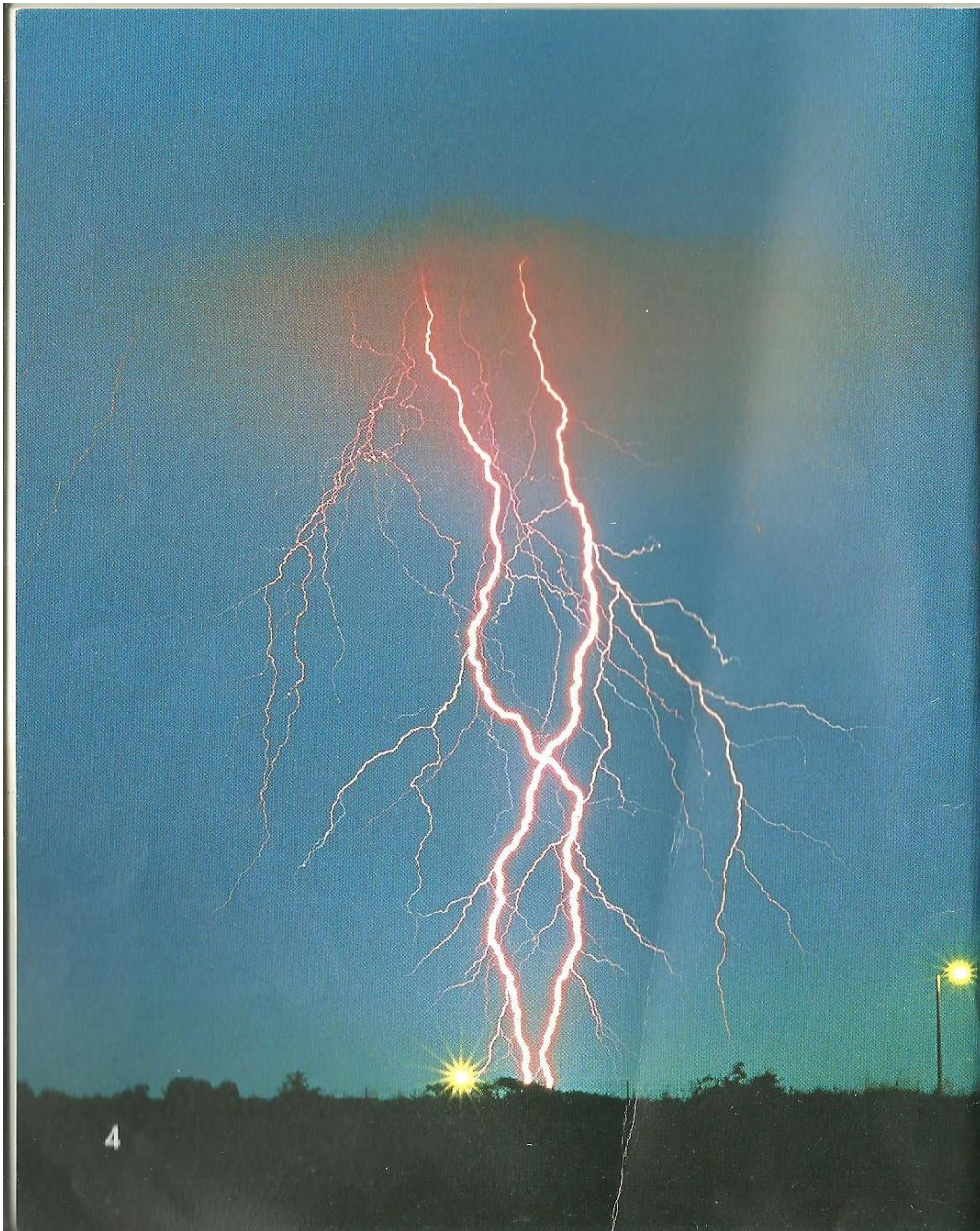
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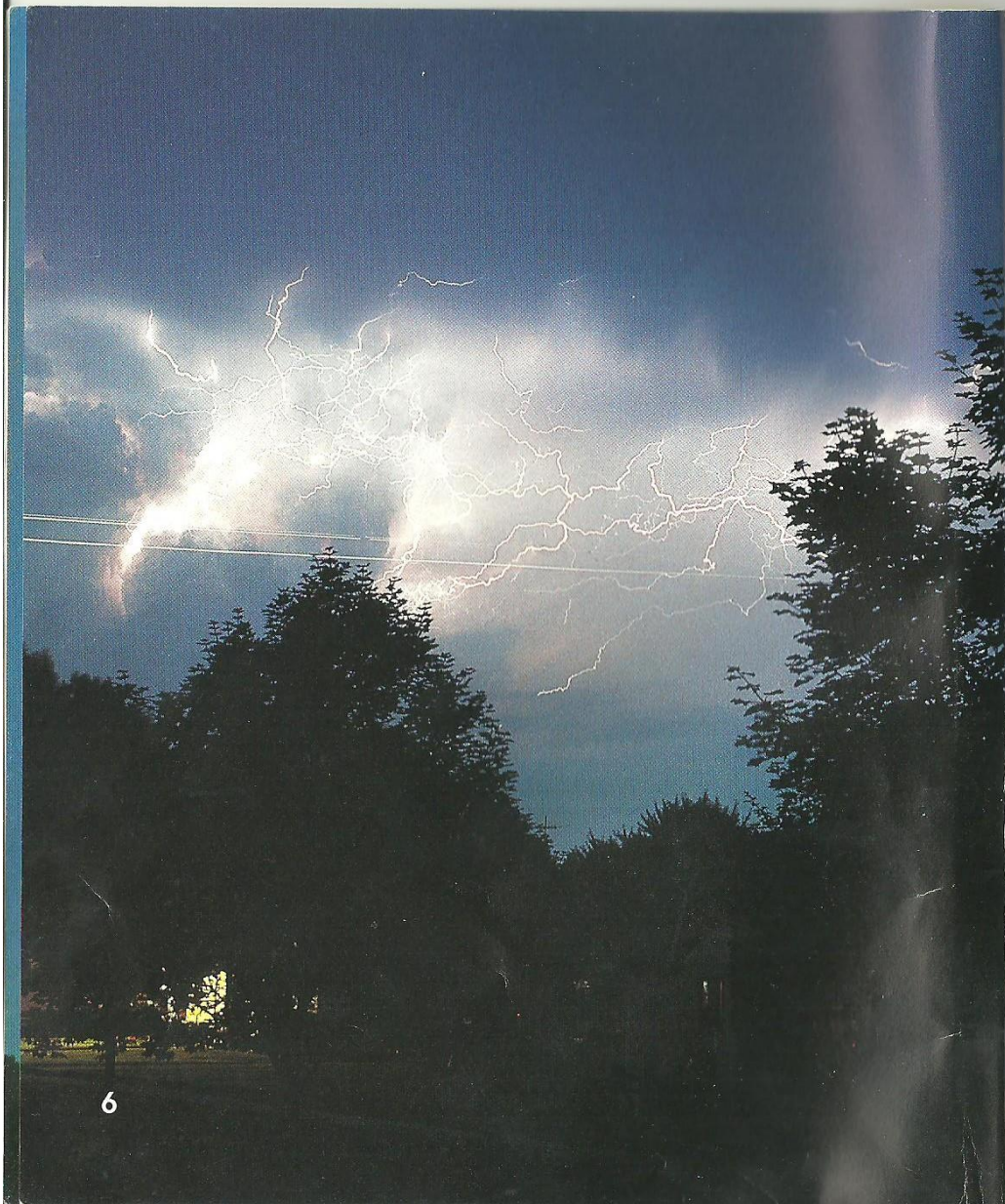
# Lightning

by Gail Saunders-Smith





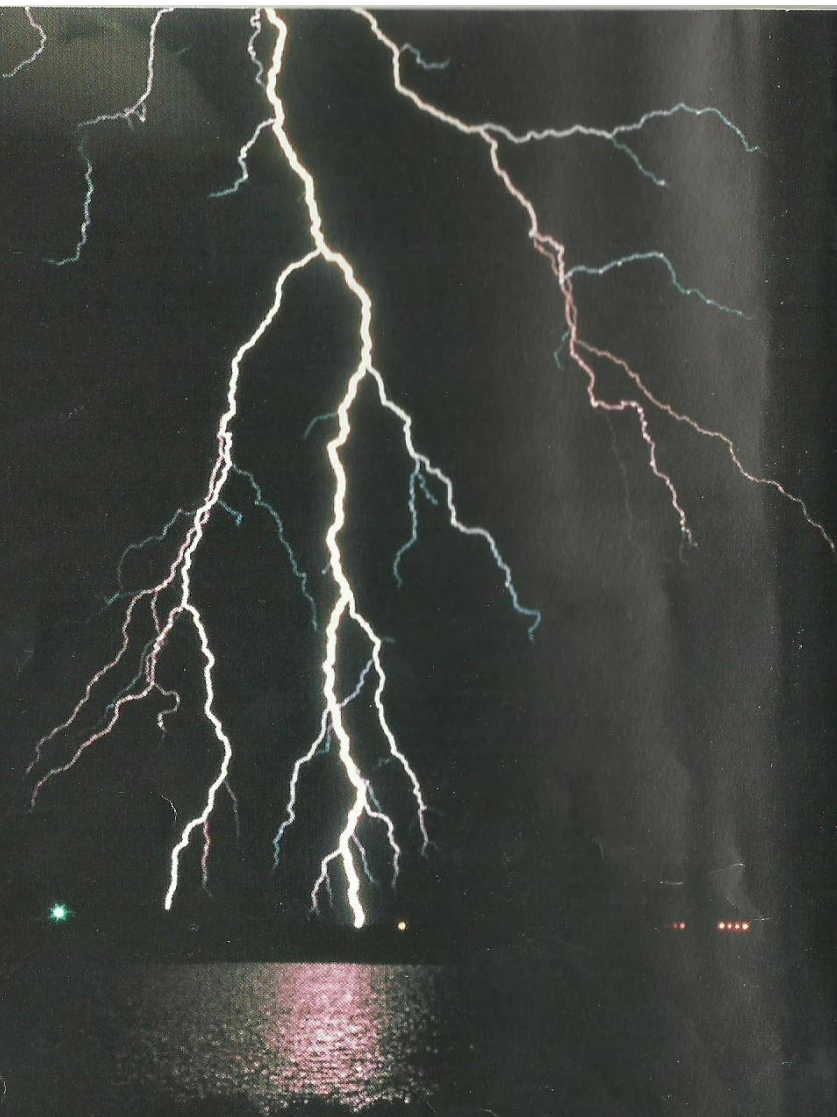
Lightning is a very bright flash of light in the sky. Lightning is made from electricity. Electricity is power. Electricity makes machines and lights work.



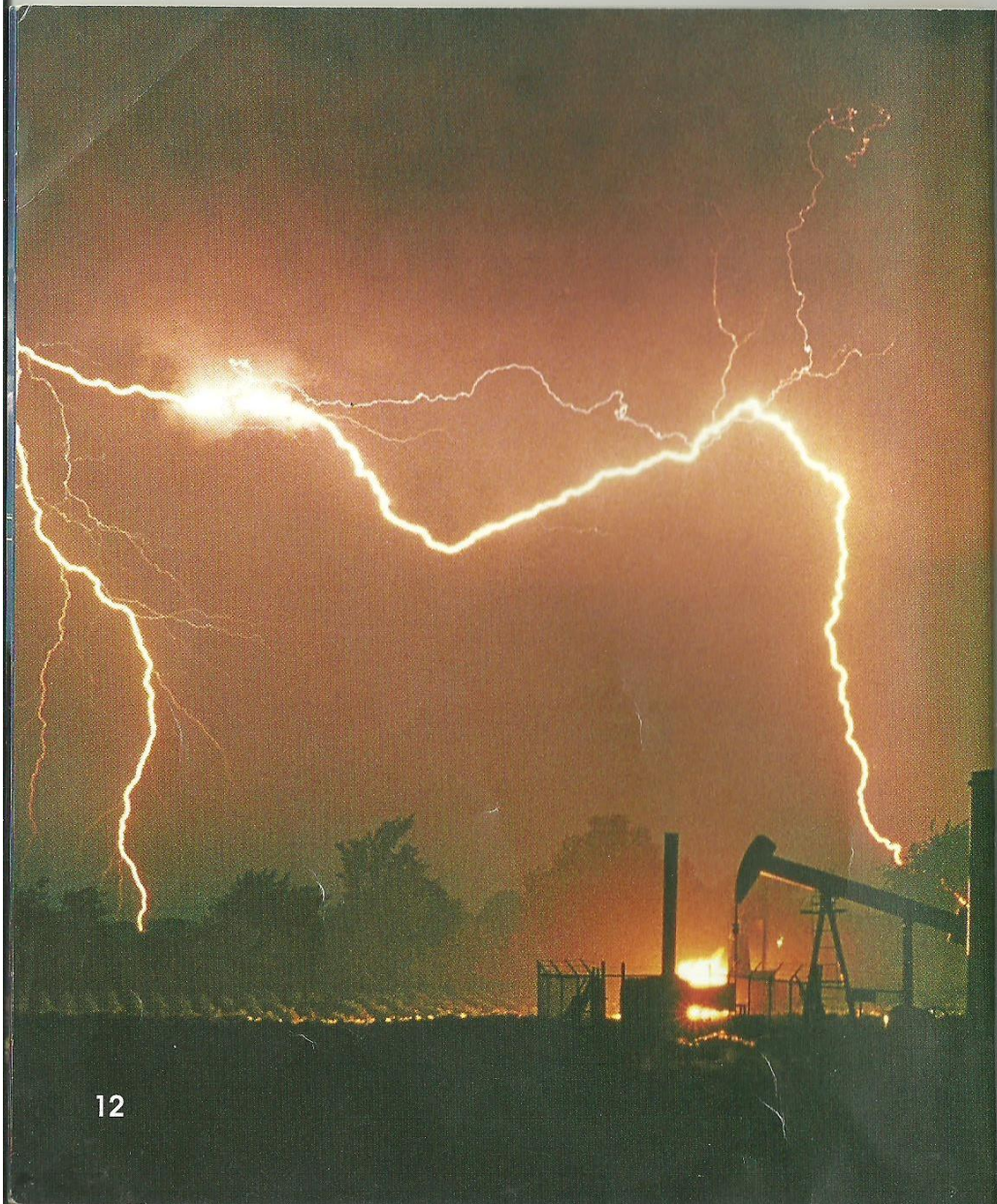
Lightning happens during storms. Storm clouds carry rain and pieces of ice. The pieces of ice start moving fast. They stir up electricity in the clouds. The electricity becomes stronger. Then lightning flashes. Lightning is how clouds get rid of electricity.



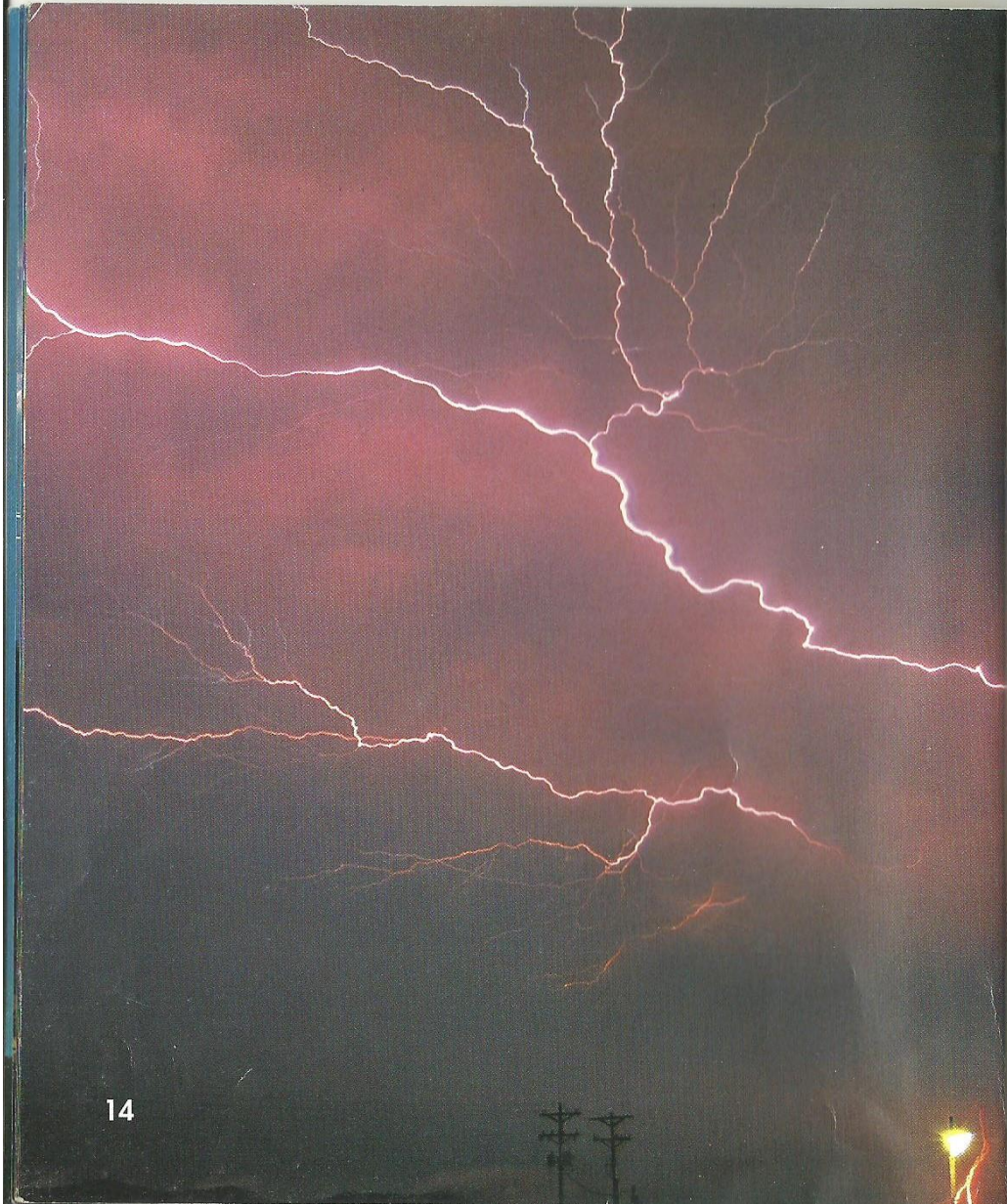
Lines of lightning are bolts. Lightning bolts are about one inch (2.54 centimeters) around. They can be six to 10 miles (9.66 to 16.1 kilometers) long. Lightning moves at up to 60,000 miles (96,600 kilometers) each second.



Chain lightning shoots from a cloud toward the ground. The bolt comes down in a crooked line. Sometimes it breaks into many bolts.



Chain lightning sometimes hits the ground. But the bolt from the cloud only comes down part of the way. It makes another bolt of electricity come up from the ground. The bolt from the ground meets the bolt from the cloud.

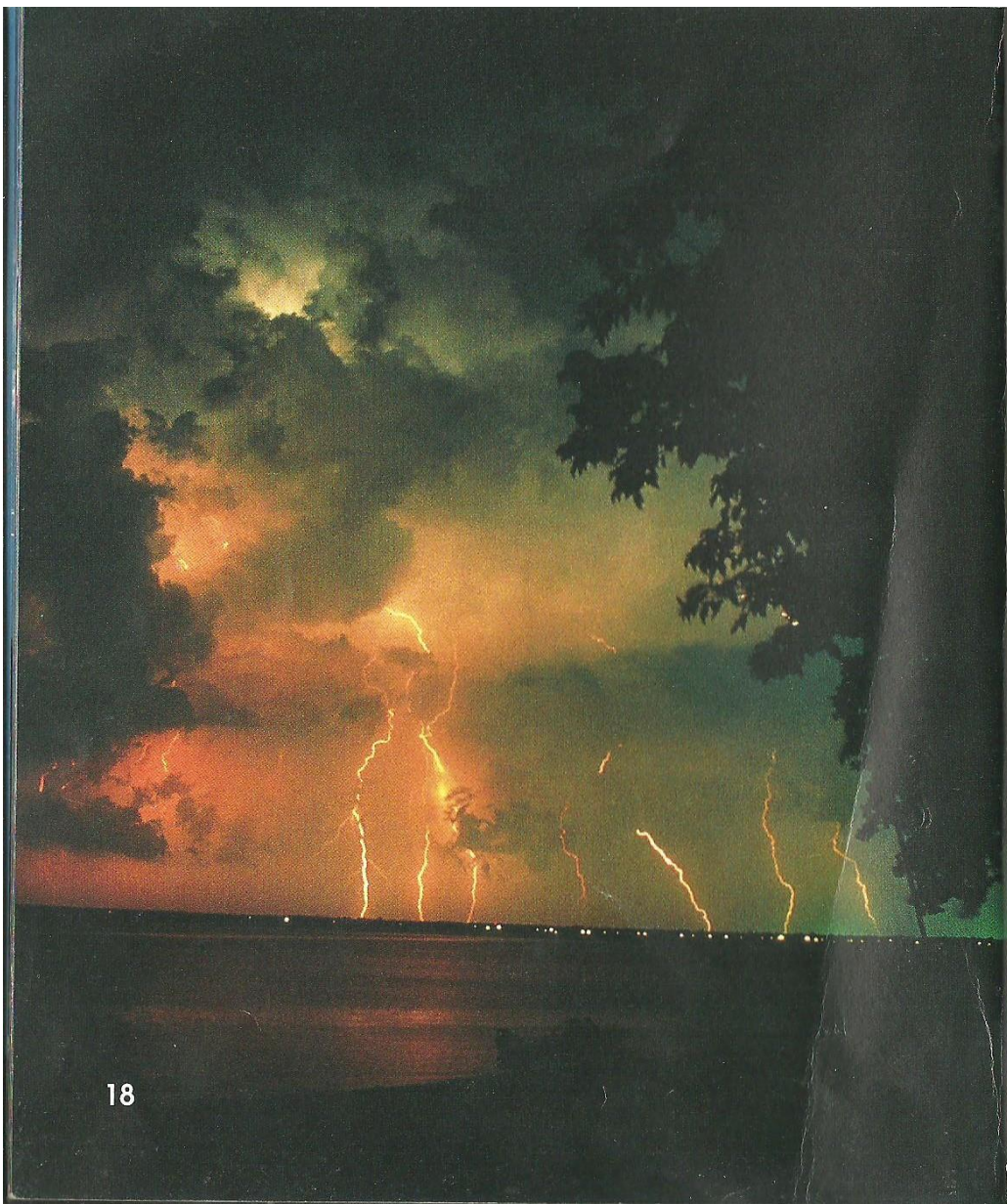


Lightning does not always shoot toward the ground. Lightning can happen inside a cloud. Lightning also can happen between two clouds.



Lightning is very hot. It makes the air around it hot too. Thunder is the sound of lightning heating the air. Thunder sounds like a crash if the lightning is close.





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Sometimes lightning is far away. Then thunder sounds like many booms. The heat from the lightning makes the first sound. Then the sound bounces all around. People hear the sound over and over.

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People usually see lightning first. Then they hear thunder. The light and sound really happen at the same time. The light travels faster, and the sound travels slower.

## Words to Know

**bolt**—a line of lightning coming out of a cloud

**crash**—a sudden, loud noise

**crooked**—bent

**electricity**—power that makes machines and lights work

**flash**—a bright light that happens for a very short time

**shoot**—to move quickly from one place to another

**storm**—weather with heavy rain and wind; sometimes storms have lightning and thunder.

**thunder**—the sound made when lightning heats the air

## Read More

**Hiscock, Bruce.** *The Big Storm.* New York: Atheneum, 1993.

**Martin, Terry.** *Why Does Lightning Strike?: Questions Children Ask about tge Weather.* New York: DK Publishing, 1996.

**Simon, Seymore.** *Lightning.* New York: Morrow Junior Books, 1997.

## Internet Sites

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