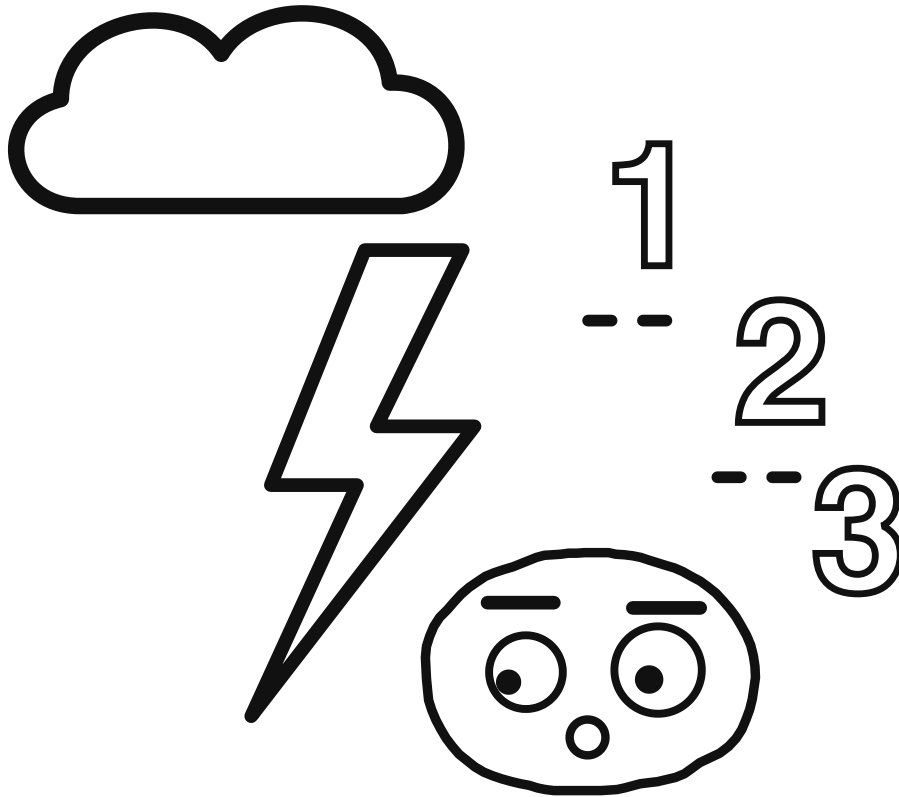


## Counting the Thunder

The sky will tell you how far away the storm is.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Today the sky is: \_\_\_\_\_



# THUNDER

Colour the picture. Then trace the big word with a finger, and say it out loud.

**GROWN-UP: WHILE THEY COLOUR**

Was that boom close or far away? What did your counting say?

## Counting the Thunder

How far away is that storm? You can count it.



### THE MISSION: GUESS FIRST, THEN GO LOOK

**When the sky flashes, guess: close or far? Say it fast, before the boom arrives.**

From inside, by a window: flash, count slowly, boom. Five slow counts is about one mile of sky. Now you know something the storm did not tell you.

In a storm, the flash and the boom happen together, far away in the sky.

The light reaches your eyes almost at once. The sound takes its time.

So the longer the quiet after the flash, the farther away the storm is.

### PROFESSOR WEATHER ROCK SAYS

Sound is a slowpoke. Thunder needs about five whole seconds to travel one mile, and light makes the same trip faster than you can blink.

## Rocktivity Time!

Pick a door. Every door is a good one.

#### MOVE LIKE THE WEATHER

Make thunder travel. Clap right by your ears: that is a close storm. Now have your grown-up clap from across the room: smaller, right? Far things sound smaller. That is the storm's whole trick.

#### ASK THEM

“Was that boom close or far away? What did your counting say?”

#### THE ROCKTIVITY

When you see a flash, count slowly until the boom. Five slow counts means the lightning was about a mile away. Count again at the next flash. Are your numbers growing or shrinking?

#### WHILE THE STORM RAINS, TRY THIS

Listen to what it plays: the window taps, the roof drums, the gutter gurgles. Which is loudest? A storm is a band, and every house hands it different instruments.

#### FOR THE GROWN-UP

Growing counts mean the storm is leaving; shrinking counts mean it is coming. That one comparison turns a scary night into a measurement, which is the whole trade of meteorology. Indoors for all of it: when thunder roars, go indoors.

#### THE TRAIL CONTINUES

Next storm, count every flash and watch your numbers. Shrinking counts mean the storm is coming closer. Growing counts mean it is packing up to leave.

And that boom you keep counting? **Storms and Thunder** knows where it is born.