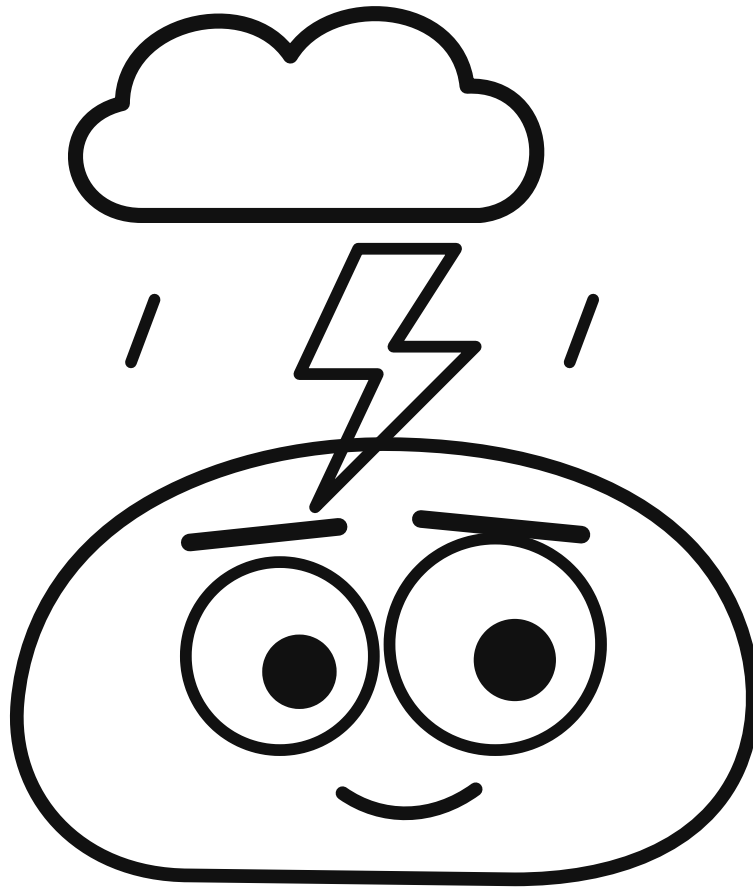


Storms and Thunder

Thunder is the sound that lightning makes.

Name: _____

Today the sky is: _____



STORMY

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

GROWN-UP: WHILE THEY COLOUR

Did you see the light before you heard the sound?

Storms and Thunder

Where does thunder come from?



THE MISSION: GUESS FIRST, THEN GO LOOK

Guess which comes first in a storm: the flash you see or the boom you hear.

From safely indoors, watch a storm and check. The sky answers every time, and it always gives the same answer.

Lightning is a huge spark jumping through the sky.

It heats the air so fast that the air booms. That boom is thunder.

You see the flash first, because light travels faster than sound.

PROFESSOR WEATHER ROCK SAYS

Light travels faster than sound, so you always see the flash before you hear the boom. Always.

Rocktivity Time!

Pick a door. Every door is a good one.

MOVE LIKE THE WEATHER

Stomp like thunder. Start with tiny fingertip taps for a far-away rumble, build to big stomps, then one best whole-body BOOM. Now let the storm roll away: quieter, quieter, gone.

ASK THEM

"Did you see the light before you heard the sound?"

THE ROCKTIVITY

Count slowly after a flash. Every five counts means the lightning was about a mile away. Fewer counts means it is closer.

WHEN A STORM IS ON THE WAY, TRY THIS

Before the rain starts, step out and sniff the air, then feel the wind. Guess how long until the first drop. Storms send messengers ahead of them, and a cool gusty breeze is the sky clearing its throat.

FOR THE GROWN-UP

Storms frighten small children. Naming thunder as only a sound, and giving them a counting job, converts fear into curiosity. When thunder roars, go indoors: that rule never bends.

THE TRAIL CONTINUES

When the storm has moved on and a grown-up says the sky is done, go see what it left behind. Storms never take their water home.

Puddles tells you where all that water goes next.