

Lightning Safety for Kids

Lightning can be deadly!

Lightning kills more people than hurricanes or tornadoes. At any moment, there are 2,000 lightning storms around the world. In the US alone, about 100 people die each year from lightning or from fires caused by lightning.

What To Do When There Is Lightning

- ⚡ Get into your home or large building.
- ⚡ If you are in a field, crouch on your knees and bend over. **DON'T** lie down because wet ground can carry electricity.
- ⚡ If you are in water, get **OUT!**

When You Are Inside

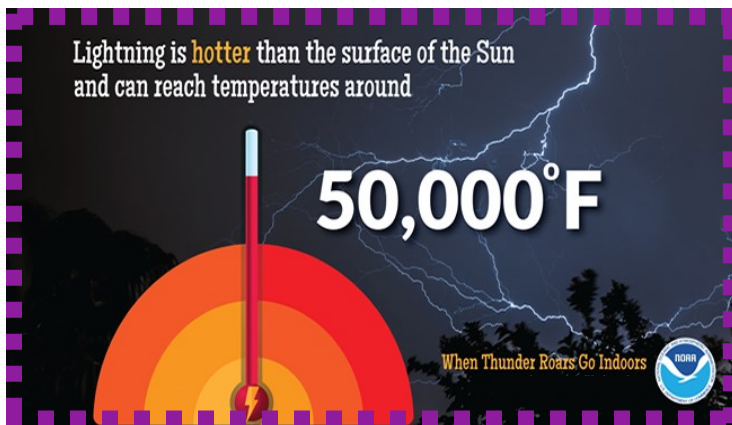
- ⚡ Keep away from windows and doors.
- ⚡ Stay away from water (sinks, tubs, etc.) and anything else that could conduct electricity.

If You Are Stuck Outside

- ⚡ Stay in the open, not under a tree or in a picnic shelter or shed.
- ⚡ Remember to keep in mind that lightning hits the tallest object.
- ⚡ Move away from anything made of metal.
- ⚡ If on a hill or mountain, get to the lowest point possible.
- ⚡ If on a boat, immediately get to dry land and seek adequate shelter if possible.

By Harold Edens
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Did You Know?



- Keep an eye on the sky! On a hot day, clouds build up, growing larger and getting higher and higher.
- As the clouds develop, small bits in the clouds become charged with electricity. These charges can connect with the ground or other clouds and produce a lightning flash.
- Lightning likes to take the shortest path. Therefore, if traveling towards the ground, it will hit whatever object is the highest.

- Thunder and lightning occur together, but because light travels faster than sound, you usually see the lightning first before hearing the thunder.
- As soon as you see the lightning, count the seconds until you hear the thunder. If you count 5 seconds, the lightning was around a mile away. If you see lightning and hear thunder at just about the same moment, **watch out!** The storm is overhead!

Seconds between seeing lightning hearing thunder	Estimated distance between you and lightning (miles)
20	4
15	3
5	1
0	Near 0 (very close)



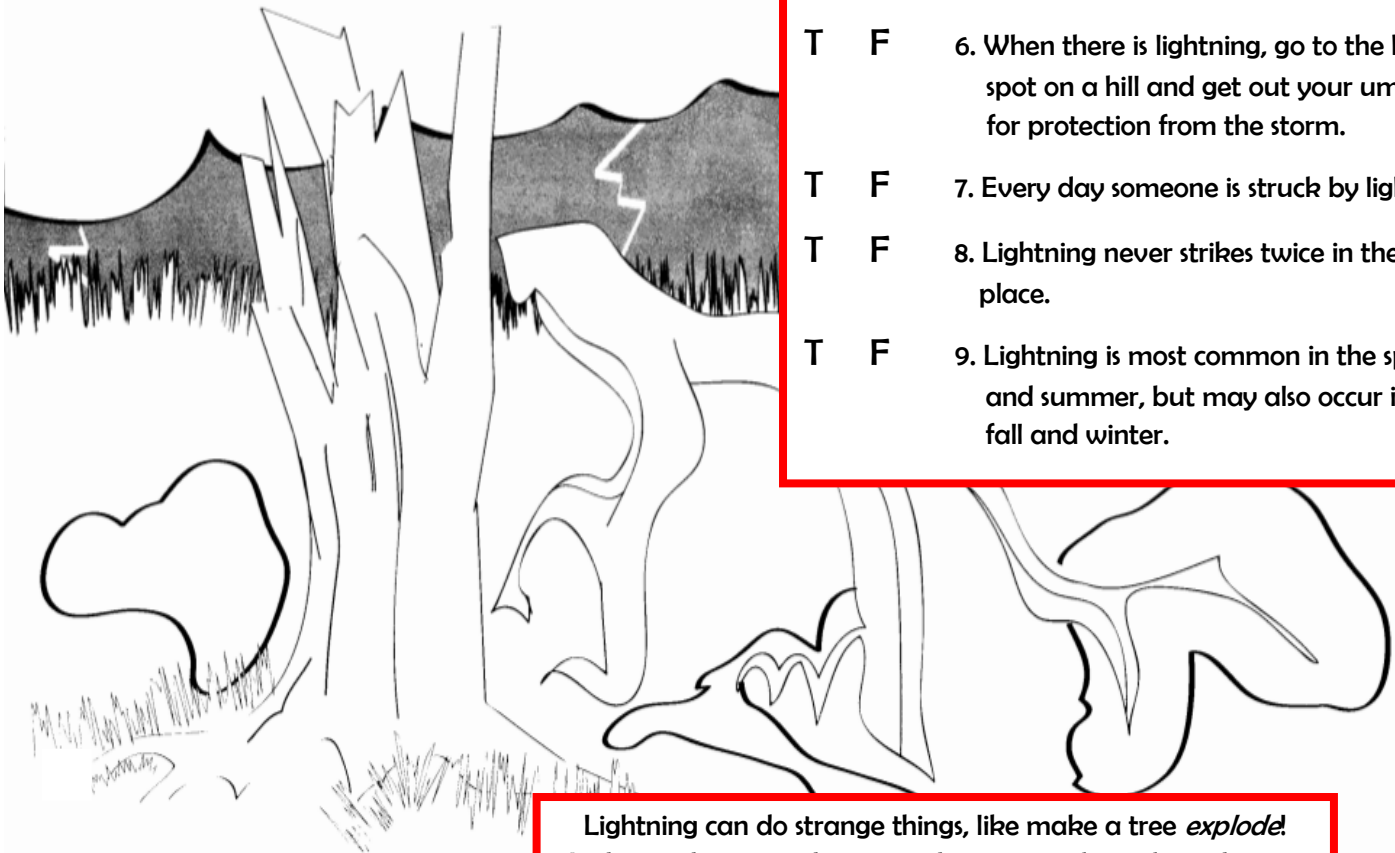
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COLOR ME!



Circle T (true) or F (false) for each sentence below

BOOM!



- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | 1. When there is lightning, and you are outside, you should crouch under a tree. |
| T | F | 2. When there is lightning, stay away from anything made of metal. |
| T | F | 3. The best thing to do during a storm is to stand at the window and watch all the lightning. |
| T | F | 4. In a storm, you usually see the lightning before you hear the thunder. |
| T | F | 5. Not all thunderstorms have lightning |
| T | F | 6. When there is lightning, go to the highest spot on a hill and get out your umbrella for protection from the storm. |
| T | F | 7. Every day someone is struck by lightning. |
| T | F | 8. Lightning never strikes twice in the same place. |
| T | F | 9. Lightning is most common in the spring and summer, but may also occur in the fall and winter. |

Lightning can do strange things, like make a tree *explode*! Lightning heats up the sap in the tree trunk, making the sap change to steam. The steam expands and blows up the tree.