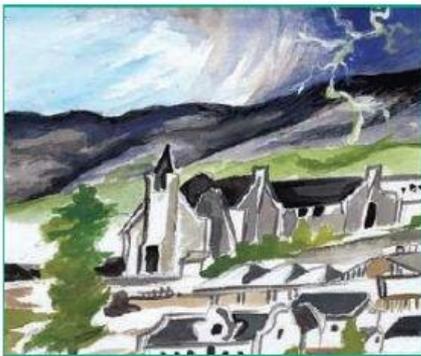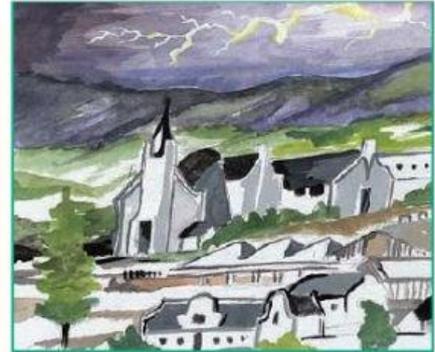# Lightning

Let's read

Sometimes when you touch something made of metal, like a doorframe, you hear a sharp click and you feel a slight shock. This is because some electricity has built up in your body and it is passed on to the metal object when you touch it.

The flashes we see during thunderstorms are the same. Electricity builds up in a cloud, and it is then "passed on" to another cloud (picture above) or to the earth (picture left).
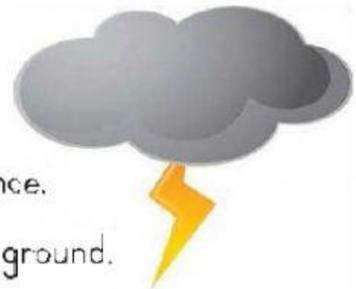
The loud clap you hear after a flash of lightning is like the click sound when you touch a metal object, but much louder. Every year, more than 30 people are killed by lightning in South Africa.

Here are three rules for safety in a thunderstorm.

If you are caught in a thunderstorm, remember:

- Never take shelter under a tree or near a metal fence.
- Don't hide in a hole in the ground or lie down on the ground.
- If you are in a river, a dam or a swimming pool, get out as quickly as you can!
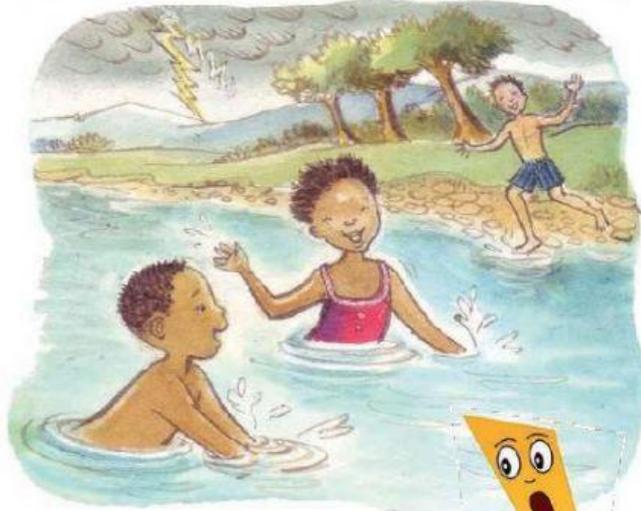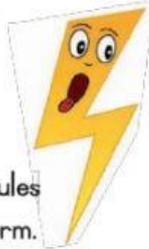
Let's talk

Talk to your friend about the picture. Say why this is a dangerous position to be in during a thunderstorm.

Let's do

Look again at the three rules for safety in a thunderstorm. Choose one of them.

Make a poster to tell people about safety during thunderstorms. Your poster should:
- have words
- have at least two different textures
- be easy to understand

Let's move

- With your body show how lightning flashes. Sometimes it looks forked and jagged, and sometimes it looks like a sheet of light. Hold the first pose for 10 seconds.
- Change into another "lightning" pose and hold for 20 seconds. Stand face to face with your friend, who will slowly change into different "lightning" poses. Copy all these movements as if you are in a mirror.
- Stand on your own again.
- Now move your bodies fast as if you are bolts of lightning. Repeat these movements.

Let's talk

Will you be safe in a motorcar during a thunderstorm?

Can lightning strike twice in the same place?