Name_____ January 14, 2021



Lightning is a flash of electricity in the air. What causes lightning?

Electricity is everywhere, in you, in the earth, and in the clouds. When clouds get dark more electricity builds up in them. Sometimes a huge spark of electricity moves quickly between a cloud and the earth. The spark can also move between two clouds, or even between two parts of the same cloud. This spark is what we see as lightning in the sky. Only about a quarter of all lightning strikes the earth. The rest go from cloud to cloud.

Lightning has several forms. Forked or chain lightning, is the crooked lightening you see zig-zagging across the sky in any thunderstorm. Ball lightning looks like balloons of fire that drop from the sky and explode when they hit the ground. Ball lightning sometimes rolls along the ground until it crashes into a tree or a wall. Sheet lightning lights up the whole sky. It has no special shape. It is really light from the forked lightning that is striking very far away.

What causes the thunder we usually hear after a flash of lightning? When lightning flashes, it heats up the air around it. The heated air spreads out and forms an air wave or sound wave. This is the sound of

thunder. Since light travels faster than sound, we see the lightning before we hear the thunder.

It takes the sound of thunder nearly 5 seconds to travel 1.6 km or about a mile. So we can tell how far away the lightning is, by counting the seconds between the flash of lightning and the thunder that follows it.

If someone is hit by lightning he can be seriously injured, or even killed. Every year in the Caribbean some people and many animals are killed by lightning.

The best protection against lightning is to stay out of its way as far as possible. It is best to stay indoors. Lightning will usually strike the highest point in an area. So, don't be a hard head, keep away from trees, and come out of the water at the beach, when there is lightning. Those are conductors that attract lightning.

Many buildings have metal lightning rods or conductors which attract the lightning and take (or conduct) it safely into the ground.



1.What would be a good title for this essay?

_____

2.Where does lightning form?

_____

3.Explain what lightning is.

_____

4.True or false? Electricity cannot move through air. _____

5.Write the names of two things that attract lightning.

_____

6.Why do you think animals and people are sometime killed by lightning?

_____

_____

7.From the passage which kind of lightning look like balloons of fire?_____

8.Explain the expression “hard head”. What do we call these kinds of expressions?

_____

_____

9.Which is the best synonym of the word sound in the passage?

a. solid b. noise c. firm

10.Select and antonym for the term quickly.

a. hastily b. speedily c. slowly

11. Write the main idea of the third paragraph one the line below.

_____

12.Infer the main idea of the fourth paragraph.

_____

13.What genre is used to write this essay?

A. Compare and Contrast B. Expository C. Narrative