

Scientifically Sound Weather Superstitions

Fill in the gaps with the words from the box:

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1. Counting lightning flashes and thunderclaps can tell you a storm's distance.

The notion that lightning never strikes twice doesn't 1) _____ to it. First, about a third of the time, individual lightning bolts strike more than once at a single go. Second, the same spots – skyscrapers, for example – can and do receive multiple strikes per year. But the counting rule 2) _____, because it's based on physics: Light travels a lot faster than sound, and the speed of sound in the atmosphere is a known quantity. According to the 3) _____, after seeing a lightning flash, you should count the number of seconds that pass before you hear the thunder. Every five seconds equates to a mile of distance between you and the storm. If nothing else, you can use the trick to figure out if the storm is 4) _____ or moving away.



2. Sharks dive deep before hurricanes.



As it turns out, everyone's favourite predator boasts ears sensitive enough that many experts say can detect changes in water and air pressure that typically accompany hurricanes and tropical storms. In fact, review of shark tracking patterns shows that they often react by diving into deeper waters to wait out the 5) _____, as indicated by behaviour before many storms. The ear theory has yet to be conclusively proven, with some experts saying that there are others ways by which sharks can identify approaching doom and take the necessary precautions. 6) _____, it does seem that sharks possess a sixth sense of sorts, which has probably contributed to their success in the whole "survival of the fittest" contest throughout time.