Scientifically Sound Weather Superstitions

Fill in the gaps with the words from the box:

lore	have a ring of truth	pronounced	mayhem	holds up	impending	be that as it may	frigid

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. 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 to 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 other 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.



3. Using crickets as thermometers.



The repertoire of crickets comprises tunes suited to every occasion, from attracting mates to announcing danger. But did you know that their chirping also bears a direct relation to air temperature? Crickets chirp faster in warmer conditions and more slowly as the air turns more 7)_____. In some species, aka the "thermometer cricket," chirp rate and temperature share a strikingly direct relationship. In other species, the connection is less 8)_____, but the rule generally works. Indeed, research has shown that you can calculate air temperature by counting nearby cricket clicks and entering them into a simple formula. For Celsius, count the number of chirps in 25 seconds, divide by 3, and then add 4.

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