

Web Weather for Kids

<http://eo.ucar.edu/webweather/activities.html>

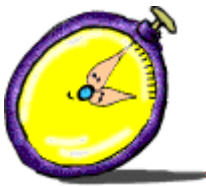
Science Activities - How Far Away Is That Storm?

The purpose of this experiment is to watch lightning and hear thunder to give you clues about how far away you are from a storm.



Stuff you need

One thunderstorm



A stop watch (or the ability to say "one-Mississippi")

Make it happen 1. After you see a flash of lightning, count the number of seconds until you hear the thunder. (Use the stop watch or count "One-Mississippi, Two-Mississippi, Three-Mississippi," etc.)

2. For every 5 seconds the storm is one mile away. Divide the number of seconds you count by 5 to get the number of miles.

What's happening? What does this have to do with the weather?



What travels more quickly, light or sound?

If you said light travels faster than sound, you're right! The lightning and thunder are happening at the same time, but light reaches you instantly, while sound takes longer.

Do you ever see lightning without hearing thunder? Some call that "heat lightning," but it is really lightning that is over 15 miles away and too far away for you to hear the thunder!

These lightning safety tips can save your life!

LOOK OUT if you see the lightning and hear the thunder at the same time! The storm is too close for safety! Do you know what to do if you are outside when this happens?

Check the right boxes below:

- ☐ Climb a tree?
- ☐ Huddle together with your friends?
- ☐ Wait it out under a tree
- ☐ Go into a cave?
- ☐ Squat down low on your feet by yourself in the middle of an open area?