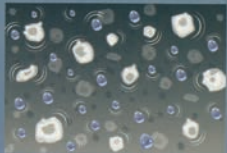


Electric skies

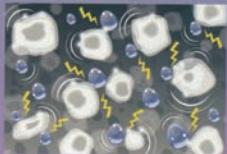
Thunder and lightning form inside massive storm clouds.



Damp, warm air rises high into the sky. As it cools, it turns into a storm cloud.



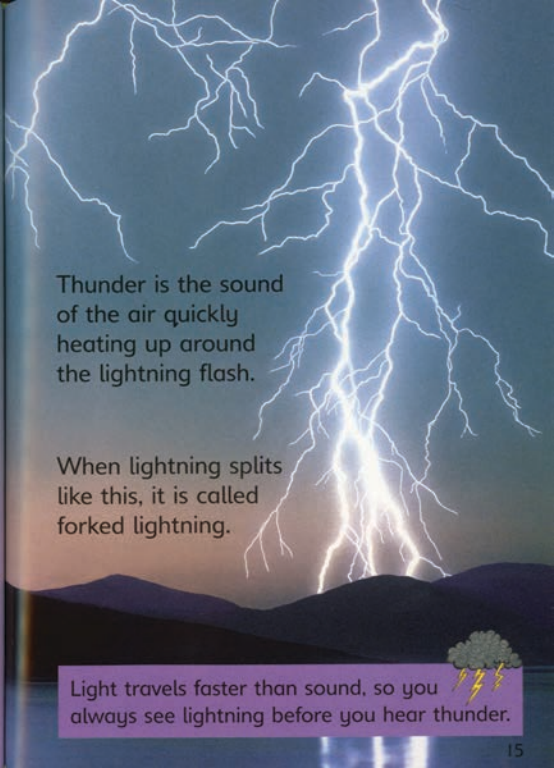
Inside the cloud, the wind swirls a mixture of hailstones and rain up and down.



The hailstones and rain bump and rub against each other. This makes electricity.



The electricity leaps down from the cloud as a very hot flash of lightning.



Thunder is the sound of the air quickly heating up around the lightning flash.

When lightning splits like this, it is called forked lightning.

Light travels faster than sound, so you always see lightning before you hear thunder.