

# A Flash Of Lightning, A Crash Of Thunder, Oh And Bolt!

Ever wondered what happens during a lightning storm? Let's take a look...

Lightning is an electrical discharge caused by imbalances, usually occurring within clouds.

During a storm, colliding particles of rain, ice, or snow inside storm clouds increase the imbalance between storm clouds and the ground below. Objects on the ground, like steeples, trees, and the Earth itself, become positively charged. This then creates an imbalance that nature wants to balance by passing an electrical charge between the two currents.

**Question 1:** Can you note down four different types of lightning below?

---

---

**Question 2:** How much hotter does the air around a lightning flash become?

---

**Question 3:** How hot is the sun's surface?

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

## Interesting Facts!

- Lightning is extremely hot – a flash can heat the air around it to temperatures five times hotter than the sun's surface.
- This heat causes surrounding air to rapidly expand and vibrate, which creates the pealing thunder we hear a short time after seeing a lightning flash.
- Thunder is the sound that is created by lightning. Thunderclouds are different to most clouds, they are very tall, so much so, you are not likely to see the top. Thunder is extremely loud due to the huge amount of electricity that has flowed from the cloud to the earth's surface. The louder the thunder the closer you are to the lightning.

