



# Thunderstorms

Thunderstorms are electrical storms that usually happen in the spring and summer months. During a thunderstorm, there is usually thunder and lightning. There is also heavy rain. Thunderstorms can occur singularly, in clusters, or in lines.

Thunderstorms happen when warm, moist air quickly moves upwards. This causes clouds to form and creates gusty winds, heavy rain and sometimes hail. This can last for a few minutes, or for much longer.

The loud sound that thunder makes is caused by the heat of the lightning that happens before you hear the thunder. Sometimes the sound of thunder can last for several seconds. This is because the thunder echoes around the ground, mountains, hills and buildings.

Some of the worst thunderstorms happen when a single thunderstorm stays in one area for a long time. Damage may include fallen trees and power lines, flooding and destruction of property.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Finding the Main Idea

The main idea of a paragraph or text is the most important point that the author is making about a topic or subject.

1. Read the title of the text. Look at the border around the text.

Using these clues, what might the main idea of this text be?

What makes you think this?

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2. Carefully read each paragraph of the text.

Underline any words which are repeated, or seem important.

Write them into the table below.

<b>First Paragraph</b>	<b>Second Paragraph</b>
<b>Third Paragraph</b>	<b>Fourth Paragraph</b>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Finding the Main Idea

3. Look at the words you wrote down in your table.

Use these to identify the main idea of each paragraph.

The first paragraph is about: \_\_\_\_\_

The second paragraph is about: \_\_\_\_\_

The third paragraph is about: \_\_\_\_\_

The fourth paragraph is about: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Which of the following could also be used as a title for this text?

- a) Rainy Days
- b) Why Thunderstorms Happen
- c) Why I Love Thunderstorms
- d) All About Hail

5. Which of these **could** be included as a paragraph in this text?

- a) Fun games to play during thunderstorms
- b) Rhymes and songs about thunderstorms
- c) Interesting facts about thunderstorms
- d) Reasons why thunderstorms are scary

6. What other main ideas could you include in this text about thunderstorms? List some ideas. Compare your list with one of your classmates.

# Answers

1. The main idea of this text is thunderstorms. This is implied by the one-word title, 'Thunderstorms', and the border showing grey clouds, lightning and rain.
2. Answers will vary.
3. The first paragraph is about what happens during a thunderstorm.  
The second paragraph is about how thunderstorms form.  
The third paragraph is about what causes thunder.  
The fourth paragraph is about damage caused by thunderstorms.
4. Why Thunderstorms Happen
5. Interesting facts about thunderstorms