



“HOME OF THE WORLD’S WORST WEATHER LIVE”

ACTIVITY SHEET: Monday, May 11, 2020

Lightning and Lightning Safety



Since 1932, scientists living at the top of Mt. Washington, New Hampshire have been collecting weather data used in forecasting and climate research. How do they do it?

In this program we will learn all about one of the most hazardous weather scenarios that our observers face on the mountain: **Lightning!**

If thunderstorms are within 10 miles of the summit of Mount Washington, weather observers do not venture outside due to the danger of lightning.

What is Lightning and How Does it Form?:

Visit the [UCAR Center for Science Education's page](#) about Thunder and Lightning and answer:

- *What is lightning?:*
- *What is thunder, and how is it created?*
- *How do positive and negative charges build up inside a cloud during a thunderstorm?:*
- *Why do we see lightning before we hear thunder?:*

Lightning Safety:

Watch this [lightning safety video from the National Weather Service's Missoula, Montana](#) office (or [visit this link from NWS](#) if you are not able to watch the video):



Answer the following:

- *Describe TWO “myths” vs. facts about lightning?*
- *BONUS: What geologic event can cause lightning?*
- *T/F: if you hear thunder, you are close enough to a storm to be struck by lightning?:*
- *What are the TWO safest types of places to be during a thunderstorm?*
- *What should you do if you are stuck outdoors during a thunderstorm?*
- *How long should you wait after hearing thunder before returning to outdoor activities?*
- *Based on what you’ve learned about lightning and lightning safety so far, what questions do you still have?*

When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

STOP all activities.

Seek shelter in a substantial building
or hard-topped vehicle.

Wait 30 minutes after the storm to
resume activities.

 www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov 

If you want to have your questions answered by Weather Observers at Mount Washington Observatory, join us for our “Home of the World’s Worst Weather Live” programs on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:15 AM Eastern on our Facebook page and submit a question during the program! Can’t make it live? We’ll have recorded versions of the programs available after they air on our webpage MountWashington.org/classroom. If you’d like to send your question in ahead of time, email Education@mountwashington.org and we’ll try our best to answer your question live from the summit!

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