

Let's name all the types of weather we can think of. What kinds of activities can we do in the different types of weather? When the weather is nice, people tend to be outside. When the weather is not so nice, people tend to stay indoors where it is safe and dry.

Let's talk about the words safe and safety. These words can mean being careful or protected from danger. What comes to mind when you think of the weather and the words safe and safety?

I'm going to name a type of weather that be not so nice.

Thunderstorm. What comes to mind when you think of thunderstorms.



In the read aloud today, Annie will be talking about what you can do to stay safe during a thunderstorm. Listen carefully for what you should do next time you encounter stormy weather.



What do you see in this picture?



Dear Kindergarteners, Have you ever seen a thunderstorm? I got caught in one the other day, and it made me realize just how amazing and powerful the weather can be! The thunder boomed and lightning flashed--it was quite a show.



Today I'm going to tell you about severe, or very bad weather, and how to stay safe during thunderstorms.

You probably know what kind of weather to expect when you look up and see large, dark clouds like these in the sky.



These are storm clouds, and unless you want to get soaked, it's time to get indoors when you see a storm like this moving in.

The word soaked means to become completely wet from the rain.



During a thunderstorm, you can see lightning. Lightning is a stroke of electricity that connects energy in the ground with energy in a cloud. Sometimes, you can see a bolt of lightning when it flashes and zigzags in the sky.



Lightning is often followed by a loud clap of thunder. If the thunderstorm is far away, then the thunder may only sound like a distant rumble. But as the storm nears, the thunder gets shorter and louder, and the time between the lightning and thunder gets shorter and shorter.



A lightning strike knocked down this tree. Lightning can start fires too. Worst of all, lightning can seriously injure, or hurt, a person. There is a very small 'chance of being struck by lightning, but it can happen.



Fortunately, there are simple ways to be safe from lightning during a storm. My teachers taught them to me, and now I'm going to teach them to you.



Lightning tends to strike, or hit with a sudden blow tall things like trees and tall buildings. The smartest thing you can do in a storm is stay indoors. If you can't take cover in a building, then a car is also a safe place.



In case you ever get stuck outside in a thunderstorm and you cannot get indoors, it is important that you remember never to take shelter under or near a tree or tall object.



Even though the tree leaves may help keep you dry, you never want to be near a tree if it gets hit by lightning. Instead, you should lie down flat on the ground, far away from any trees, and wait for the storm to pass--you'll get drenched, but you won't get struck by lightning or a falling tree.



Another important rule is always to get out of a pool, lake, river, or ocean immediately during a thunderstorm. Electricity moves through water, so anyone in the water can be hurt by a single lightning strike. It's best to be safe and stay dry inside during a thunderstorm!



When it is cold outside, you might see hail during a storm. During a hailstorm, chunks of ice, called hailstones, fall from the clouds onto the ground. Usually, hailstones are small--about the size of peas or smaller. Sometimes, however, hailstones can be as big as a golf ball or even a baseball. It is always best to stay inside during a hailstorm.

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It is important to know how to stay safe during storms and other kinds of severe weather. If possible, don't go outside at all in any kind of storm. If you have to go outside, wear the right kind of gear, or special type of clothing, like a raincoat, boots, and a hat during rainstorms.



Be smart and safe, so you can enjoy the amazing power of nature. It really is quite the show!

Your friend, Annie



Comprehension Questions:

Literal

PLEASE ANSWER IN COMPLETE SENTENCES.

Describe some characteristics of a thunderstorm?

Comprehension Questions:

Literal
What is lightning?

PLEASE ANSWER IN COMPLETE SENTENCES.

Comprehension Questions:

PLease answer in OMPLETE SENTENCES.

What should you do to stay safe during a thunderstorm?

Comprehension Questions:

Literal

What are hailstones?

PLEASE ANSWER IN COMPLETE SENTENCES.

Comprehension Questions:

Literal

PLease answer in complete sentences.

What gear, or special type of clothing, is best to wear if you have to go outside in the rain?

Think. Pair. Share.







I'm going to ask you a question. I will give you a minute to think about the question, and then I will ask you to turn to your neighbor and discuss the question. Finally I will call on several of you to share what you discussed with your partner.

Think. Pair. Share.







Have you ever experienced a thunderstorm? What did you see? What did you hear? Try to use your five sense to describe it.



Explicit Vocabulary Instruction

Safety in Storms
In the read aloud you heard, "Today I'm going to tell you about severe weather, and how to stay safe during thunderstorms."

Say the word **severe** with me.
Whisper severe to the ceiling.
Whisper severe to your neighbor.
Let's clap it out.

Severe means very bad.

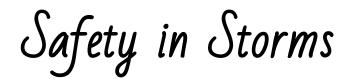
Someone's facial expression can be severe if s/he is very angry, or the weather can be severe if it is dangerous.

Tell about something you know that is severe.

Try to use the word severe when you tell about it.

"One thing I know that is severe is..."

The opposite of severe is gentle. If any of the things that I say sound severe, say, ____ is severe." If any of the things sound gentle, say, ____ is



a kitten

blisters from a sunburn

soft spring rain



breaking an arm

snowflakes falling on your face