

Preparing for Thunderstorms & Lightning

Grades 1-3 • Reproducible Master

Hi! I'm Hugo. There are more than 100,000 thunderstorms in the U.S. every year. Want to learn more? Download **Monster Guard**. It's a free app from the American Red Cross that teaches kids how to be prepared for emergencies. Choose "Thunderstorm & Lightning" on the main menu. Then join me on a training mission to learn how to stay safe when you hear thunder. **Note:** You must have completed the **Monster Guard** Initiation section before you can access the Thunderstorm & Lightning training mission.

My Thunderstorm & Lightning Safety Score: _____



Part 1

Thunderstorms begin as warm, moist air that rises into the sky. The air forms a white, puffy cloud, called a *cumulus* cloud. When the cloud piles up high enough, it crashes into cold air high in the atmosphere. The cold air causes the moisture in the warm air to condense into raindrops, and before long, a thunderstorm is on the way.

Lightning is the most dangerous part of a thunderstorm. Lightning is a gigantic spark of electricity that connects the thunderstorm to the ground. It heats the air around it to very high temperatures. This causes the air to expand very quickly, like a balloon popping. That's the sound we call thunder. So whenever you hear thunder, you know that lightning is nearby. And that's why the safety rule for thunderstorms is, **When the Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!**



Now read about the situations below. Tell what you would do to stay safe if you heard thunder.

1. You are walking to your car after soccer practice.

2. You are standing near a window inside your home.

3. You and your family are driving to a movie.

4. You and your friends are swimming in a lake.

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Part 2

Do you remember your thunderstorm and lightning safety training? Show what you learned with this wordfind puzzle. Circle the things in a home that might be dangerous when you are indoors during a thunderstorm. Use the word bank if you need help.



B	A	T	H	T	U	B	S
A	B	C	D	S	E	P	H
F	G	H	V	I	J	H	O
K	L	W	I	N	D	O	W
M	N	O	P	K	Q	N	E
C	O	M	P	U	T	E	R

Word Bank:

- bathtub
- computer
- phone
- shower
- sink
- window

Replay the
Monster Guard
Thunderstorm &
Lightning training
mission. See if you can
score higher!

