



A Dark and Stormy Night Viewing Guide

BEFORE VIEWING

Objective

Students will learn to describe the differences between thunder and lightning, and how to predict how far away a storm is.

Key Vocabulary

- **lightning:** a flash of light in the sky caused by electricity in a storm cloud
- **thunder:** the sound lightning makes when it flashes
- **thunderstorm:** a large storm with lightning and rain

Background Information

In the *Weather Hunters* episode, “A Dark and Stormy Night”, the Hunter family learns where lightning and thunder come from. As the storm gets stronger, the power goes out in their neighborhood. As they watch the storm from inside their home, they use their senses to learn how to keep everyone safe.

Discussion Prompts

Before we watch, let’s think together...

- How do you feel during a thunderstorm?
- What do you hear and see during a thunderstorm?
- How do you prepare for a storm to stay safe?

Now let’s watch to see what the Hunter family uses their senses to learn about thunderstorms!



Find more games and activities at pbskids.org/weatherhunters



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DURING VIEWING

Timeline of video segments with play and pause icons and timestamps: 1:07, 5:35, 7:07, 11:40, 17:30

Understand that scientists use different tools to help them learn about and report about the weather.	Spark students' interest about storms and begin conversations about them.	Support students as they explore the topic more deeply.	Model behaviors that will keep others safe during a storm.	Spark conversations about a new skill they can use.
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Q What tool does the Hunter family use to observe the storm since it's not safe to go outside?	What causes lightning ?	Why does Lily see the lightning before she hears the thunder ?	What are some ways the Hunter family stays safe during the storm?	If the time between seeing the lightning and hearing the thunder gets shorter, what does that tell the Hunter family about the storm?
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A A drone.	Water droplets in storm clouds freeze and crash into each other, making electric sparks. The electricity connects with the electrical charges on the ground, creating lightning.	Let's keep watching to find out.	They stay inside, pay attention to alerts on their phone, avoid using water, and stay away from electronics that are plugged in.	The storm is getting closer.
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AFTER VIEWING

Discussion Prompts

Let's talk about what we saw.

- What did we discover about how thunder and lightning are formed?
- What did the time between seeing lightning and hearing thunder tell the Hunter family about the storm?
- How did the Hunter family use their senses to track the thunderstorm?

Let's think about how this connects to our lives.

- Have you ever had a power outage?
- What can you do during a storm to stay safe?

Extension Activities

Use your senses to observe the weather and record your findings on the **Weather Senses** printable. Explore your environment by looking outside the window or standing outside.

- What do you notice with your eyes, ears, nose, or skin?

Takeaways

During a thunderstorm, it's important to stay inside to be safe. You can use your senses to see the lightning and hear the thunder, and you can count the seconds between lightning and thunder to guess how far the storm is.

Next time you experience a thunderstorm, try counting the seconds between seeing the lightning and hearing the thunder to predict how far away or close the storm is.

- Do you notice your count changing as the storm continues?

School to Home Connection

Article: Talking to Kids About Severe Weather | PBS KIDS for Parents

Printable: Staying Safe in Sunny and Stormy Weather

Printable: The Colors of the Rainbow

Activity: Weather Senses | Printable

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