



What Is Weather?



by Ellen Lawrence

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Flashes and Bangs!



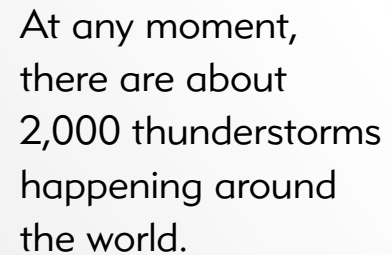
A giant dark **cloud**, many miles above Earth, fills the sky.

Suddenly, a jagged flash of lightning shoots from the cloud.


Seconds later, a loud clap of thunder fills the air.

The weather report was right.

It said today's weather would bring **thunderstorms**.



At any moment, there are about 2,000 thunderstorms happening around the world.



A thunderstorm is one type of weather. How many other types of weather can you name?



Weather—What Is It?



Weather is what is going on in the sky and air.

Different places can have different kinds of weather at the same time.

In one place, there may be a thunderstorm, in another place there may be snow.

In yet another place the weather may be sunny and warm.

Temperature—how hot or cold it is—is always a part of weather.



a hot day



thermometer

Just as distance is measured in inches (cm) with a ruler, temperature is measured in degrees (shown by this symbol °) with a thermometer.

This thermometer shows the temperature on a freezing cold day. The temperature is 32° Fahrenheit (0° Celsius). What temperature does the thermometer on page 6 show?

(See answer on page 24.)



a cold day

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Read More

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MacAulay, Kelley, and Bobbie Kalman. *Changing Weather: Storms (Nature's Changes)*. St. Catharines, Ont., and New York: Crabtree (2006).

Mack, Lorrie. *Weather (Eye Wonder)*. New York: DK (2004).

Learn More Online

To learn more about the weather, visit
www.bearportpublishing.com/WeatherWise

Answers

Page 7: 100°F (37.7°C)

Page 10: All snowflakes are made of ice crystals and have six points. They form when the air around clouds is very cold.

About the Author

Ellen Lawrence lives in the United Kingdom. Her favorite books to write are those about animals and nature. In fact, the first book Ellen bought for herself, when she was six years old, was the story of a gorilla named Patty Cake that was born in New York's Central Park Zoo.

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What Is Weather?

Weather is violent storms, rain, sleet, hail, snow, temperature, wind, and much more. It is basically whatever is happening in the air around us. Read about different kinds of weather events—such as hurricanes and snowstorms—and how they form. Find out how temperature plays a big part in weather, and learn to keep track of the weather in your area. Forecast for this book: Breezy fun!

**How Are Rain, Snow,
and Hail Alike?**

What Are Clouds?

What Is Climate?

**What Is the
Water Cycle?**

What Is Weather?



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