



ELECTRIC BALLOONS

Lightning Strikes

During storms, many small bits of frozen raindrops bump into one another as they move around in the air. All of these collisions create an electrostatic charge. Positive charges form at the top of the cloud and negative charges generally gather at the bottom of the cloud. Since opposites attract, positive charges on the ground begin to build up. The positive charges concentrate around anything that sticks up, such as mountains, trees, and tall buildings. Once the difference between the negative and positive charges becomes great enough, the negative charges in the clouds rapidly jump onto the nearest tall object attached to the ground in the form of lightning.

