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KIDS



Weather



Kristin Baird Rattini

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Weather

Kristin Baird Rattini



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To Tom and Emily, the sunshine of my life—K. B. R.

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Look Up at the Sky

The weather helps us know
what to wear, and do, and grow.

It brings rain, wind, and sun.

Let's go outside for some fun!



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What Is Weather?



Peek out your window at the sky. Is it sunny or cloudy? Rainy or windy? You are checking the weather!

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Weather is what it's like outside at one place, at one time. But keep a lookout. Weather can change fast!



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The Sun

The sun warms the land. It warms the air and water, too.

Q

Why did the woman go outside with her purse open?

A
She expected some change in the weather.

The sun's heat and light help things grow. Plants and animals need sunshine to live.

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Sunny days are fun. You can play outside! Will you go to the park? Or ride a bike? The sun can make the air outside hot. You can cool off with a swim!



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What Comes From Clouds?



clouds

White, fluffy clouds are called cumulus (KYOOM-yuh-lus) clouds.

Q What does a cloud wear under its clothes? A Thunderwear.

Tiny water droplets float in the air. They group together. They make clouds of all shapes and sizes.

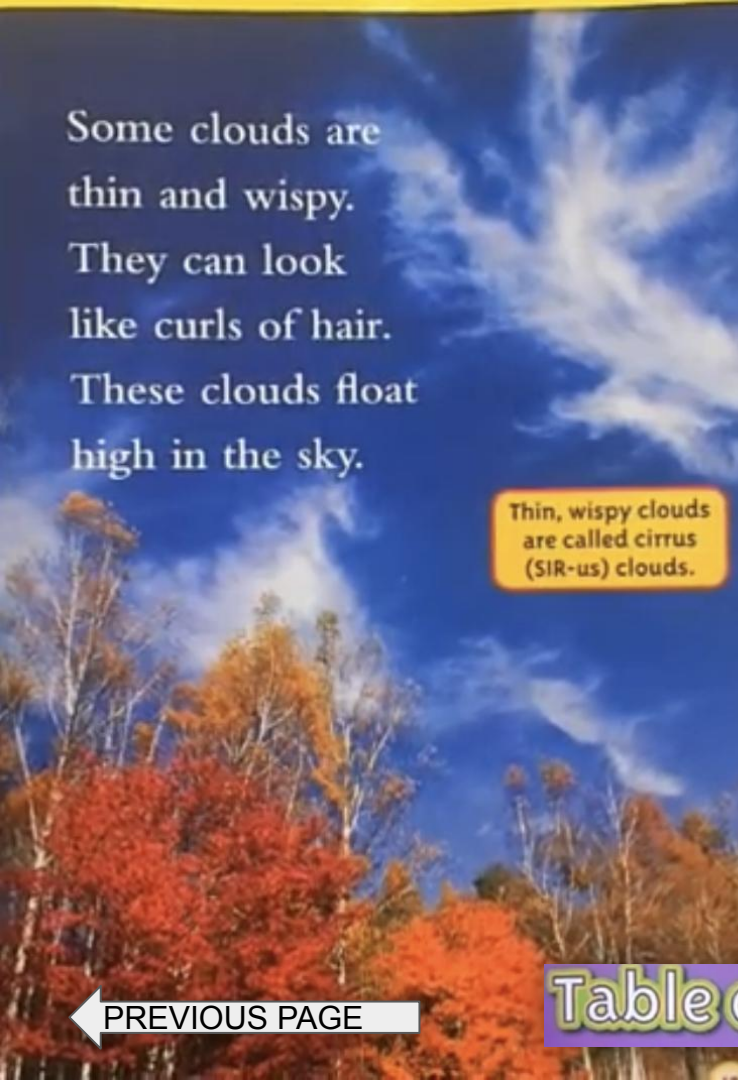
White, fluffy clouds mean good weather.

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Weather Word
DROPLET: A very small bit of liquid



Some clouds are
thin and wispy.
They can look
like curls of hair.
These clouds float
high in the sky.

Thin, wispy clouds
are called cirrus
(SIR-us) clouds.



Flat, gray clouds
bring rain.

Flat, gray clouds are called
stratus (STRA-tuhs) clouds.

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Weather Word
FLURRY: A light snowfall that barely covers the ground

Brrr! It's cold outside.
Water **droplets** in clouds
sometimes freeze. They can
fall as hail or snow.

If it's hail, you'll see ice. If it's
snow, you might get a **flurry**
(FLUR-ee). Often, a lot of
snow means a snow day!

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Q

What did the cloud say
to the lightning bolt?

You're shocking!

A

*Drip, drop. Down comes
the rain!*

Water **droplets** in clouds
sometimes fall as rain.
Rain falls in warm and
cool weather.

Rain helps plants and
animals live. It fills rivers and
ponds. Rain forms puddles
on sidewalks. *Splash!*

Q

What goes up when the rain
comes down?

An umbrella.

A

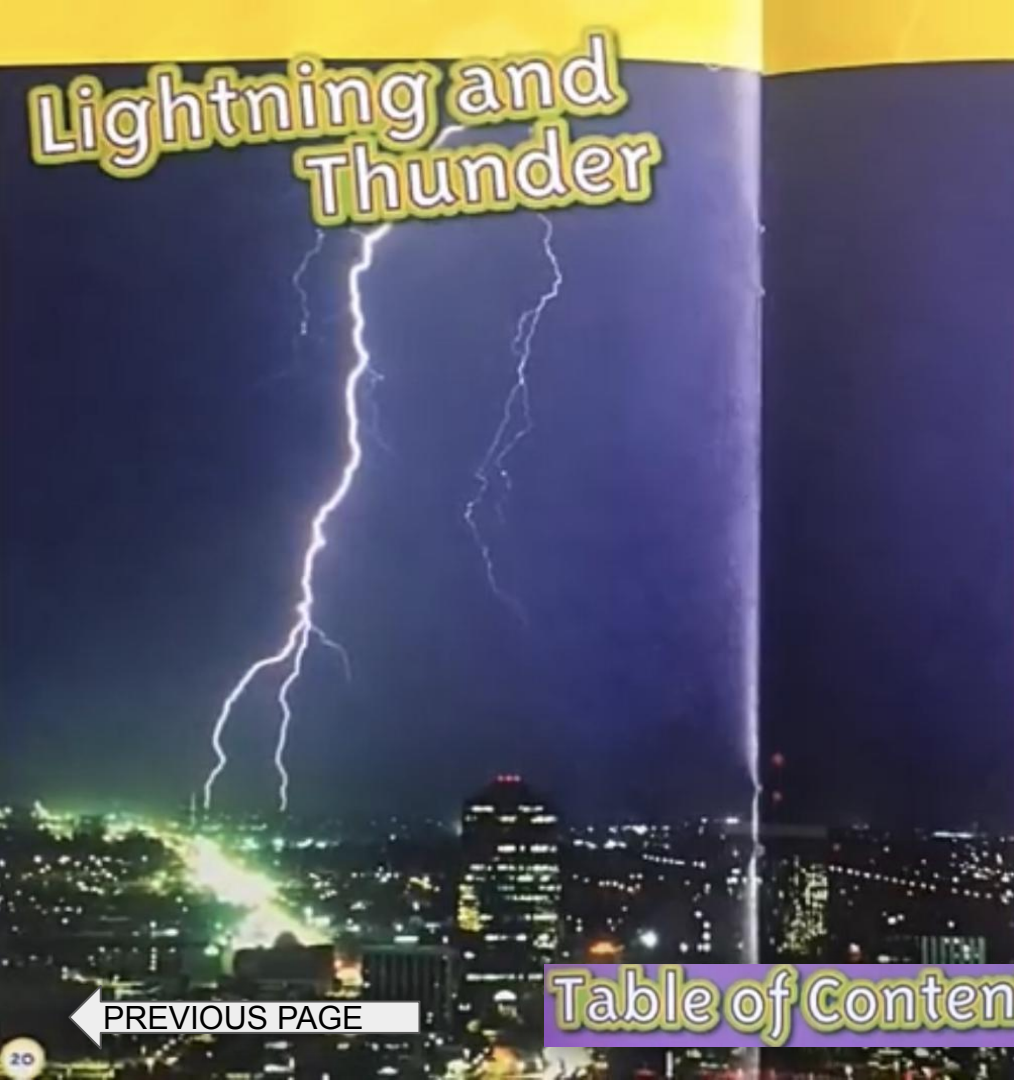


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Lightning and Thunder



Lightning is a super-hot stream of **electricity** (ee-lek-TRIS-uh-tee). It lights up the sky. *Flash!* It zips from the cloud toward the ground.

After lightning comes a *BOOM!* That sound is thunder.

Weather Word

ELECTRICITY:

Energy that can make heat and light

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Rainbows

Have you ever seen a rainbow after a storm? Rainbows are made from sunlight and water **droplets**.

Q

What bow can't be tied?

wooliz y

A

Rainbows paint bright stripes of color in the sky. Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. Which color do you like best?

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6 Ways Weather Is Wild



Sometimes water flows where it is usually dry. This is called a flood.



Hail is ice that rains from the sky. It can be small. Or it can be bigger than a baseball!



A hurricane brings heavy rain and strong winds.



Very strong winds sometimes twist. They form a tornado.

Weather Word
BLIZZARD: A heavy snowstorm with wind



Sometimes it doesn't rain for a long time. This is called a drought (drowt).



It's hard to see in a blizzard!

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Wind



Wind is moving air. A light wind is called a breeze. A strong wind is called a gale.

Wind has energy. It pushes clouds and rain across the sky. Wind can make kites dance.

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What in the World?

These pictures are close-up views of weather things. Use the hints to figure out what's in each picture.

Answers are on page 31.



HINT: Wear these in sunny weather.



HINT: They fall as a flurry or as a blizzard.



HINT: This goes up when rain comes down.



HINT: A stream of electricity



HINT: They come in all shapes and sizes.



HINT: They fall from the clouds in warm weather.

WORD BANK

raindrops snowflakes sunglasses umbrella clouds lightning

Weather and Me

The weather helps
you plan your day.
Should you wear
sunglasses or rain
boots? Will you swim
or throw snowballs?

Wherever you go,
the weather is always
with you.



BLIZZARD: A heavy
snowstorm with wind



DROPLET: A very small
bit of liquid



ELECTRICITY: Energy that
can make heat and light



FLURRY: A light snowfall
that barely covers the
ground

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