

Topics	Notes, Diagrams, Drawings
Severe weather	<p>Weather events that cause major damage, injuries, and death</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thunderstorms • Tornadoes • Hurricanes • Blizzards
Thunderstorms	<p><i>have warm temperatures, moisture, and rising air which may be supplied by a low (L) pressure system</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When these (↑) conditions occur a cumulus (or cumulonimbus) cloud can grow into a 10-km tall thundercloud in as little as 30 minutes • Are also known as electrical storms because of their lightning
Thunderstorm life cycle	<p>Cumulus stage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumulus cloud forms and air rises (updraft) <p>Mature stage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downdrafts begin to appear, air currents move toward the ground • Heavy winds, rain, and lightning dominate the area <p>Dissipating stage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updrafts stop, winds die down, lightning ceases, and precipitation weakens
Lightning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong updrafts and downdrafts within a storm cause tiny ice crystals to rise and sink, crashing into each other creating positively & negatively charged particles in a cloud • Difference in charges of particles within the cloud and ground causes electricity and this is seen as a bolt of lightning

