Lightning

Gap fill

Listen to the story and fill in the blanks.

What is lightning and where does it _____ _____ ? It's _____ that starts in clouds. Lightning often stays inside a cloud or _____ to a nearby cloud. It also moves between a _____ and Earth.

To understand how it works, _____ a battery. It has two opposite ends: positive (+) and _____ (-). A dark storm cloud also has two ends. The upper _____ of the cloud is positive. The bottom _____ is negative. When you place a battery inside a _____ , something special occurs. The positive and negative parts come together. That's a _____ . Turn on the flashlight, and the circuit opens, electricity _____ and light appears. _____ _____ off, and the circuit is closed.

Dark clouds are like _____ batteries. If there is no circuit, there is no lightning. A circuit can be created when a line of negative energy _____ out of a cloud and _____ toward Earth. That line is not visible. It might connect with a line of positive _____ . That line could come from a tree, tower or the _____ . When the negative and positive lines come together, a sudden and _____ circuit is created.

This circuit is not lightning. It is a _____ . Negative energy from the cloud _____ down the path. Positive energy _____ up. Electricity is now _____ rapidly along the path. This fast-moving energy crashes into air in the _____ . That crashing _____ three events.

First, electricity heats up the air _____ the path. The temperature of that air is _____ than the sun. Second, intense _____ heat alters the colour of the air. For a brief moment, that line of air _____ like a flash of white or pale blue light. That's lightning. Third, that air produces a loud noise. That's _____ .

Back to the first question: what is lightning? It's the result of _____ flowing along a path. When we see lightning, we are actually observing a narrow _____ of extremely hot air. That air also makes thunder.

Lightning is attractive and dangerous. Each year, it kills _____ people. Like many things in nature, we can appreciate its beauty, but it also _____ our respect.

Synonym match

Match the words or phrases.

1. circuit	a. sets off
2. triggers	b. loop
3. deserves	c. infinite
4. flows	d. merits
5. enormous	e. runs

True or false

Choose the correct answer.

1. Lightning makes electricity. T or F
2. Lighting is caused by fast-moving electricity. T or F
3. Lightning is loud. T or F
4. Lightning is actually a line of hot air. T or F
5. Lightning can jump out of the clouds. T or F

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Anagrams

Move letters. Make a new word.

PTRACPAEEI	_____	SOSHTO	_____
NRWAOR	_____	ESPAL	_____
SALHF	_____	RCITUIC	_____

ESL discussion questions

Talk about the story

1. What kind of story is this?
2. Do you like lightning? Have you ever seen a big lightning storm?
3. Where does lightning come from?
4. Describe how lightning is like a battery.
5. Describe the three events that take place when a bolt of lightning appears in the sky.

Writing practice

Put the words in the correct order.

1. triggers / events / three / That / crashing

2. to / Lightning / inside / nearby / or / a / a / stays / cloud / often / cloud / leaps

3. on / the / opens / electricity / and / light / appears / flows / and / circuit / flashlight / the / Turn

4. the / cloud / shoots / path / energy / from / the / down / Negative

5. the / result / along / path / a / electricity / flowing / It's / of