

# Vocabulary



**hurricane** a very large and violent tropical storm

Hurricanes begin as thunderstorms over tropical ocean water and gain energy from warm, moist, rising air.

**lightning** the sudden discharge of static electricity in the atmosphere

Lightning can occur within a cloud, between clouds, and between a cloud and the ground.

**thunder** the rumbling or crackling sound produced by lightning

Because light travels faster than sound, you will often hear a clap of thunder after you see the lightning flash that produced it.

**thunderstorm** a storm with lightning, thunder, rain, and sometimes hail

Severe thunderstorms can spawn tornadoes.

**tornado** a dark funnel of strong winds that spiral upward

Tornadoes form during severe thunderstorms, when warm, moist air rises, and cool air from different directions rushes in and begins rotating.