Let’s Make a Thunderstorm!

Experiment Guide

Thunder Experiment

Materials:

- Brown Paper Bag

Procedure:

1. Blow up the paper bag.
2. Twist the end of the paper bag and close it.
3. Pop the paper bag by clapping it together with your hands.
4. Listen for the sound.

Result/Reasoning:

- The bag makes a loud sound due to the air being squeezed out of it. The air creates a wave and you hear the sound when the wave enters your ear.
- It is like thunder because air expands quickly when lightning hits. The air moves in a wave and once the wave hits your ear, you hear the thunder.
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Experiment Guide

Lightning Experiment

Materials:

- Balloon
- Ball of Wool

Procedure:

1. Blow up the balloon.
2. Quickly rub the ball of wool onto the balloon.
3. Place the balloon onto a wall and let go.

Result/Reasoning:

- The balloon should stick to the wall. The balloon, because it was rubbed with the wool, is now filled with negative charges. Nothing occurred on the wall, so the wall is filled with positive charges. The negative is attracted to the positive, which is why the balloon sticks to the wall.
- It is like lightning because electricity moves from negative to positive. The Earth is positive, while some of the clouds can be negative—the opposites attract.