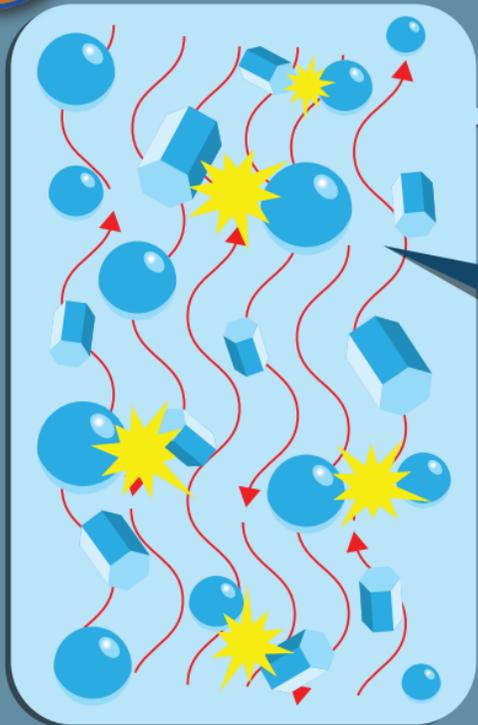




# How Does Lightning Work?



a closer look:  
**All Charged Up**  
 Just like rubbing your socked feet across carpet can give you a shock when you touch a door handle, clouds build up an electrical charge. Particles of water and ice collide and rub against each other, building up a positive electrical charge. When too much positive charge builds up, it travels to the nearest negative charged area (the ground or another cloud) in the form of lightning.



+ positive charge



- negative charge

## How Far Away?

Watch for a flash of lightning and count the seconds until you hear the thunder. Use this guide to find out how far away the lightning is.

- 00 seconds — 0 miles
- 05 seconds — 1 mile
- 10 seconds — 2 miles
- 15 seconds — 3 miles
- 20 seconds — 4 miles
- 25 seconds — 5 miles
- 30 seconds — 6 miles

### \*Remember 30-30!

If the time between flash and thunder is less than **30 seconds**, seek shelter. Wait **30 minutes** after last flash to leave shelter.

