

Name: _____ Date: _____

Some Natural Phenomena

Q1. What causes lightning in the sky?

Ans. _____

Q2. State some precautions that people should take to protect themselves against earthquakes if they live in seismic zones of the country.

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Q1. What causes lightning in the sky?

Ans. During the development of a thunderstorm, the air currents move upward while the water droplets move downward. These vigorous movements cause separation of charges. The positive charges collect near the upper edges of the clouds and the negative charges accumulate near the lower edges. There is accumulation of positive charges near the ground also. When the magnitude of the accumulated charges becomes very large, the air which is normally a poor conductor of electricity is no longer able to resist their flow. Negative and positive charges meet, producing streaks of bright light and sound. We see streaks as lightning. The process is called an electric discharge.

Q2. State some precautions that people should take to protect themselves against earthquakes if they live in seismic zones of the country.

Ans. People living in seismic zones should take the following measures for protection against earthquakes:

- i. All the buildings in these zones should be designed so that they can withstand major tremors. Modern building technology can make it possible.
- ii. In highly seismic areas, the use of mud or timber is better than the heavy construction material. Keep roofs as light as possible. In case the structure falls, the damage will not be heavy.
- iii. It is better if the cupboards and shelves are fixed to the walls, so that they do not fall easily.
- iv. Wall clocks, photo-frames, water heaters etc., should be mounted securely on the walls, so that in the event of an earthquake, they do not fall on people.
- v. Since some buildings may catch fire due to an earthquake, it is necessary that all buildings, especially tall buildings, have fire fighting equipment in working order.