

Notes for Thunderstorms

- Three Ingredients:
 1. Moisture (more frequent near large bodies of water)
 2. Unstable air (warm, humid days with air that continues to rise)
 3. Lift (mountains, weather fronts, and rising air masses)
- Life Cycle:
 1. Towering cumulus stage (cloud grows vertically – strong updrafts)
 2. Mature stage (updrafts & downdrafts – dangerous stage)
 3. Dissipating stage (mostly downdrafts)
- Multi-cell Cluster – Most thunderstorms occur in clusters, which join together to form a squall line that can extend for hundreds of miles
- Lightning – convection in the clouds cause water molecules to rub together, creating static electricity. (Electrons – and protons +)
- Thunder – heat from lightning causes rapid expanding and contracting of air that generates sound waves