

# MAGIC MAILBOX

**Ever wonder where lightning comes from?** Lightning comes from clouds. It happens when small bits of frozen raindrops bump in to each other inside a cloud, creating an electrical charge. Sometimes this charge gets so big that it escapes from the cloud and makes a path from the bottom of the cloud to the Earth. This is what you see as a lightning bolt. **Ever wonder what causes thunder?** Thunder is the noise that lightning makes! Lightning bolts are extremely hot; this causes the air around them to explode outward in vibrations. These vibrations are what we hear as thunder. Because light travels faster than sound, we usually see the lightning before we hear the thunder. If you see lightning and hear thunder simultaneously, the storm is directly overhead.

Postcard Picture: Print this page, cut out the picture and tape it to your little scientist's postcard.

