

## LIFE NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION

# NiE

### Words at work

#### To storm out

Meaning: to burst out of some place angrily.

Eg. She stormed out of the office when told she wasn't given the job.

# Stormy weather

**PART 5**

The sight of an incoming storm can be menacing but also beautiful. Storms demonstrate the awesome power of nature and also provide some of the most spectacular visions.

#### Chasing storms

AS THE clouds roll in and the sky darkens, lit up by flashes of lightning, most of us scuttle indoors, but for some the prospect of a severe storm is exciting.

Storm chasers love nothing more than getting out when the weather is at its absolute worst.

These weather warriors chase storms out of curiosity, for adventure, scientific investigation, or for news or media coverage.

Photographing or videoing severe weather conditions and reporting

their observations is a fascinating pastime for the strong community of storm-chasers in Australia.

There are many dangers involved in pursuing the hazardous weather conditions.

The chasers risk their personal safety, equipment and cars to get in the face of summer's fury of lightning, tornadoes, large hail, flooding, hazardous road conditions, downed power lines, fallen debris and reduced visibility from heavy rain.

But the information gathered by

these enthusiasts is very beneficial providing a vital service for the community and helping relevant authorities predict, plan and prepare for dangerous summer storms and update severe weather warnings.

Wanting to record and share the unpredictable nature of storms is the reasoning behind chasing storms.

#### Did you know?

An important component of the Australian Bureau of Meteorology's Severe Thunderstorm Warning

Service is a national network of volunteer Storm Spotters who provide "on-the-spot" information on damaging thunderstorms.

If you are 18 years of age or older, and a resident of Australia, you can join the Bureau's storm spotter network.

The Bureau provides comprehensive training material to all new spotters, and there is further information, training material and newsletters available online. [www.bom.gov.au/storm\\_spotters/](http://www.bom.gov.au/storm_spotters/)

### Be prepared

#### The SES

THE State Emergency Service is a group of volunteers who assist communities prepare for, respond to and recover from an event or disaster such as storms.

Each State and Territory in Australia has an SES response agency made up of people from all walks of life who have a common desire to help make their community safer.

In a disaster, they support other emergency services, provide information, safety advice and arrange for the delivery of essential supplies to people affected.

Easily identified by their distinctive orange overalls, the SES is a wonderful support group that communities rely on in times of need.

To contact the State Emergency Service anywhere in Australia phone 132 500

### TRY THIS

#### A stormy picture

##### Materials

- white piece of paper
- black paint
- white paint
- sponge
- white glue eg PVA
- flour

##### Steps

1. Mix black and white paint to make different shades of grey.
2. Use the sponge to cover the paper with paint. Start with black at the top and graduate down the page from the darker to lighter shades of grey.
3. Allow the paint to dry completely.
4. Using the white glue draw lightning bolts starting from the top of the page.
5. Quickly sprinkle flour over the glue. Shake excess flour off.

#### Stormy facts

- Lightning results in five to 10 deaths in Australia every year.
- The largest confirmed hailstone (14cm in diameter) fell in the Kempsey region of NSW.
- The most damaging hailstorm to date in Australian history occurred in Sydney on the evening of April 14, 1999.
- The highest recorded wind gust in the Australian region is 408kmh at Barrow Island during Cyclone Olivia on April 10, 1996.
- The maximum rainfall recorded during a Western Australian cyclone was 927mm in 36 hours.



**NEXT WEEK: Clean up your act**