



Shocking Lightning Science

Make Lightning Instruction Page

DIRECTIONS ► Gather the materials listed below and then follow the instructions to make lightning in your classroom. Note: you will have better results if you do this experiment in a room that you can make very dark.

Materials:

- Styrofoam plate
- Metal thumbtack
- Pencil with eraser
- Aluminum pie pan
- Small piece of wool fabric

Instructions:

1. Push the thumbtack up through the center of the aluminum pie pan starting from the bottom side of the pie pan.
2. Push the eraser end of the pencil down into the thumbtack. (The pencil becomes a handle to lift the pan.)
3. Place the styrofoam plate upside-down on a table. Rub the bottom of the plate with the piece of wool for one minute. Be sure to rub the material back and forth really quickly!
4. Set the wool aside and pick up the aluminum pie pan using the pencil as a handle. Place the pie pan on top of the upside-down styrofoam plate.
5. Before this next step, you will need the room to be dark. Once the room is dark, touch the aluminum pie pan with your finger. What did you see when you touched the pan? What did you feel? Discuss with your group.
6. If you don't see or feel anything when you touch the pie pan, try rubbing the styrofoam plate with wool again and repeat steps 4 and 5.

