

Severe Weather

air mass - a large region of air that has a similar temperature and humidity. Air masses can be cold, warm, dry, or moist.

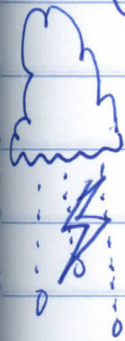
front - the place where two air masses meet.

- Air masses move and cause changes in the weather.



① Warm front approaching cold air mass =
⇒ some clouds and light rain is possible

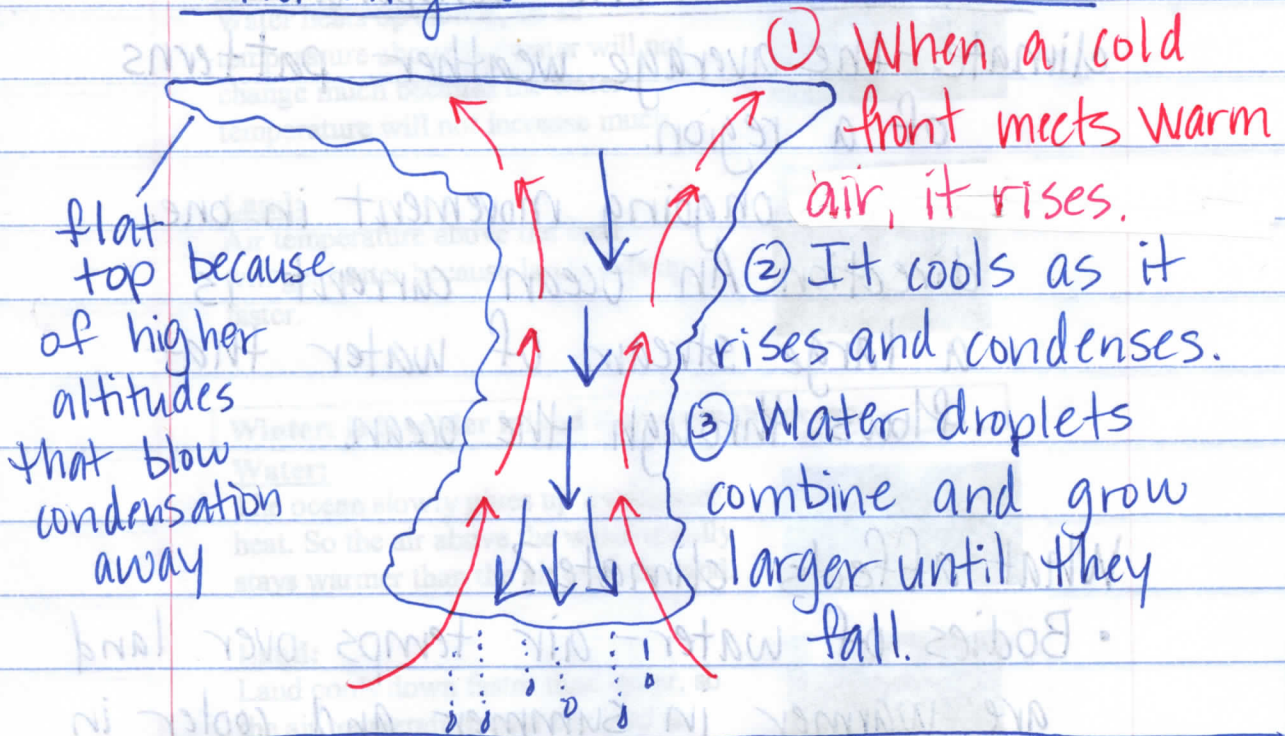
↪ But... Watch out!



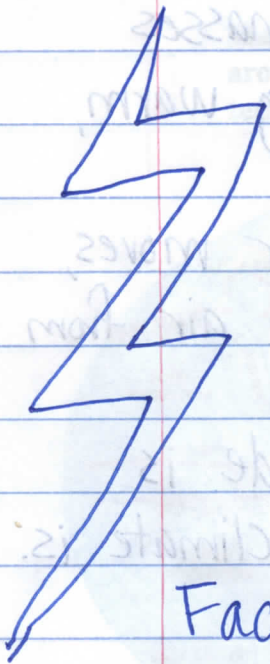
② Cold front approaching warm air mass =
⇒ possibility of thunderstorm.

Why? the cold air moves under the warm air up. As it rises, it condenses. Towering clouds form and storms may follow.

Anatomy of a Thunderstorm



How Lightning Forms



Theory: Moving air causes particles of ice and rain that are rushing up and down the cloud to rub against each other. This builds up electricity in the cloud.

Fact: It occurs

- ① within a cloud
- ② between clouds
- ③ from cloud to ground