

Thundersnow (L1-L2)

Name _____ Date _____

Sky News Thursday 6 January 2022 11:58, UK.

Rare 'thundersnow' phenomenon could cause travel disruption and power cuts – as Met Office issues snow and ice warnings



Image: Snowfall in Braemar, Aberdeenshire

Thundersnow is expected to hit parts of the UK, with forecasters warning snow showers and lightning strikes could disrupt travel and cause power outages – after the coldest night of the winter so far.

The big chill has arrived for many areas, as yellow warnings for snow and ice have been issued by the Met Office for parts of northern England, western Scotland and Northern Ireland for today and tomorrow.

It has forecast snowfall in Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cumbria, Merseyside, Yorkshire and Scotland between 10am and 4pm, followed by freezing conditions in the evening and wintry showers into Friday.

It follows Topcliffe in North Yorkshire recording a chilly -8°C (17.6°F) overnight, making it the coldest temperature recorded in England this winter.

Prospect of thundersnow

After a bitterly cold and frosty start on Thursday morning as temperatures dropped to sub-zero across most parts of the UK overnight, a band of rain and hill snow will arrive from the west.

Forecasters say the prospect of thundersnow – expected to hit western Scotland today and tomorrow – is driven by the same conditions which cause thunder in the summer, the difference in temperature between the ground and the surrounding air.

Thundersnow is similar to a regular thunderstorm but much rarer. It is a thunder and lightning storm with snow instead of rain. It can look different to a regular storm as lightning appears brighter when reflecting off snow. In addition, thunder is quieter when muffled by snow drifts.

Adapted from: <https://news.sky.com/story/uk-weather-snow-and-ice-met-office-warnings-for-parts-of-uk-as-severe-weather-travel-alert-issued-by-national-highways-12509948>

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1. The main purpose of the text is to:

a	describe the snowy weather in Braemar	<input type="checkbox"/>
b	advise what to do during a yellow weather warning	<input type="checkbox"/>
c	warn about snow drifts	<input type="checkbox"/>
d	give information about thundersnow and current weather warnings	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Name two areas of the UK where there are yellow weather warnings.

3. What is likely to happen between 10am and 4pm in Merseyside?

4. What is thundersnow? Explain in your own words.

5. What causes thundersnow?

6. What is the meaning of the word **prospect** as it is used in the text?

7. List two differences between thundersnow and a normal thunderstorm.

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8. Explain the purpose of the hyphen in **sub-zero** in paragraph 5.

9. Explain the purpose of the two dashes in paragraph 6.

10. Name two organisational features used in the text.

(Do **not** include 'paragraphs' or 'bold font' as answers.)

11. Find a two-word phrase in the text that means the same as **power cuts**.

12. The word **disrupt** is used in the text.

All the missing words in this puzzle contain **rupt** which means 'to break'.

- a. The volcano will _____ about once every ten years. (5 letters)
- b. Please don't _____ when I'm speaking. (9 letters)
- c. The _____ politician was sentenced to 5 years in jail. (7 letters)
- d. Her manner was short and _____ but she meant well. (6 letters)

13. Which **two** words best describe the style of the text?

a	conversational	
b	explanatory	
c	informative	
d	instructive	

14. What does the word **phenomenon** mean and what is its **plural**?
