



## DIY LIGHTNING

Make lightning at home!

### Materials

Balloon  
Metal spoon  
Wool cloth (optional)

### Results

The spark of static electricity jumping from the balloon to the spoon looked just like lightning!



### Procedure

- Blow up your balloon and tie it off so that the air won't escape.
- Vigorously rub the balloon on your hair or a wool cloth for 30 seconds.
- Take the metal spoon and the balloon into a dark room. Slowly bring the metal spoon close to the balloon until you see a small spark.
- Repeat this experiment as many times as you want. Did that spark remind you of anything?

### Why?

When you rubbed the balloon against your hair or cloth, you were generating static electricity. Static electricity is the build-up of electrical charge when an object is rubbed against another object. That electricity was then discharged from the balloon to the spoon when you brought them close together. The spark of electricity moving from the balloon to the spoon looked like lightning because lightning is static electricity on a massive scale!