

Name _____

Skill: Reading Comprehension

Read the story and answer the questions.

Zapped

Getting struck by lightning is a serious thing. A bolt of lightning is powerful. It can contain enough volts of electricity to flash on all the lights of a medium-sized town. If you were struck by a bolt of lightning, there are many harmful things that could happen. The lightning's heat would instantly turn your sweat to steam. That steam could burn your skin or blow off your clothes and shoes. The electricity could race through your eyes and ears, blurring your vision and burning your eardrums. The explosive force of the lightning could break your bones. Your muscles, including your heart, could stop working.



Each year about 100 people in America die from lightning strikes. Another 400 Americans are struck, but the strike is not fatal, or deadly. To avoid being struck by lightning, there are some things you should do. You should stay inside during a thunderstorm or remain in your car. You should avoid contact with metal pipes. You should also avoid talking on the phone or using a computer because if lightning strikes your house, it can travel through metal and wires.

1. What is the main idea of this story? (Circle the answer.)

- A. Sometimes lightning is not deadly.
- B. Sweat can turn to steam.
- C. Lightning is powerful and can be dangerous.

2. What are three things that might happen to you if you are struck by lightning?

3. About how many people in America are killed by lightning each year?

4. What are some things you should do during a thunderstorm to avoid lightning?

5. A word that means "deadly" is: (Circle the answer.)

- A. burning
- B. harmful
- C. total