If you can hear thunder, that means lightning is close enough to strike you. Count the number of seconds after a lightning flash until you hear the thunder. It takes 5 seconds for sound to travel one mile. That means if you count to 5 and hear thunder, the bolt of lightning struck 1 mile away. There’s only one safe place to be in a lightning storm: Inside. Go inside a car or house, whichever is closest. If you’re out in the open, kneel down someplace sheltered, but don’t sit right next to a tree! If lightning strikes it, the electricity will hit you too!