

MAKE A THUNDERSTORM

What you need:

clear, plastic container (size of shoebox)
red food coloring
ice cubes made with blue food coloring
water

What to do:

Fill the plastic container two-thirds full with lukewarm water

Let the water sit for one minute.

Place a blue ice cube at one end of the plastic container.

Add a few drops of red food coloring to the water at the other end of the plastic container.

Note what happens:

Explanation:

The blue water represents the cold air mass and the red water represents the warm, unstable air mass. The blue cold water sinks while the red warm water rises. This happens because of convection. A thunderstorm is caused by unstable air and convection plays an important part. The warm front is forced to rise due to meeting the cold front, where the air meets is unstable and thus causing a thunderstorm.