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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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THE MOVEMENTS OF THUNDERSTORMS

A thunderstorm travels in the direction of the wind at the level of the main portion of the storm cloud. Over the greater part of the United States this wind, at the time of a thunderstorm, is nearly always from a westerly quadrant; hence the great majority of thunderstorms in this country move approximately west-to-east. Occasionally, however, this upper wind is in other directions and thunderstorms travel accordingly.

In Texas thunderstorms often travel from an easterly point, while in equatorial regions they do so as a rule. Occasionally a heat thunderstorm develops over a mountain peak and remains there until it has "rained itself out".

Lastly, the development and spread of a thunderstorm are often in directions other than that of the travel of the storm as a whole and these movements are quite deceptive. They may, for example, lead to the impression that the storm has passed by and then come back again.

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