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Paths of lightning! Most of us think of lightning as having a zigzag path, at least that is the way artists show lightning in their pictures. But the more accurate-seeing camera shows the most common kind, - streak lightning, - as a sinuous curve, - never zigzag. Often the streak has branches many of which exhaust themselves in midair never reaching the earth. If pictures of some flashes were printed with black ink, they might very easily be mistaken for maps of rivers with their tributaries. A map of the Amazon River has often been used to illustrate this similarity.
