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## Chapter – 15

### Some Natural Phenomena

- Some objects can be charged by rubbing with other objects.
  - There are two kinds of charges — positive charge and negative charge
  - Like charges repel and unlike charges attract each other.
  - The electrical charges produced by rubbing are called static charges.
  - When charges move, they constitute an electric current.
  - An electroscope may be used to detect whether a body is charged or not.
  - The process of transfer of charge from a charged object to the earth is called earthing.
  - The process of electric discharge between clouds and the earth or between different clouds causes lightning.
  - Lightning strike could destroy life and property.
  - Lightning conductors can protect buildings from the effects of lightning.
  - An earthquake is a sudden shaking or trembling of the earth.
  - Earthquake is caused by a disturbance deep inside the earth's crust.
  - It is not possible to predict the occurrence of an earthquake.
  - Earthquakes tend to occur at the boundaries of earth's plates. These boundaries are known as fault zones.
  - Destructive energy of an earthquake is measured on the Richter scale. The earthquake measuring 7 or more on Richter scale can cause severe damage to life and property.
  - We should take necessary precautions to protect ourselves from earthquakes.
  - **Richter Scale:** A logarithmic scale, ranging from 1 to 10 for indicating the intensity of an earthquake.
  - **Seismic Waves:** The energy released at the focus of an earthquake, propagates outwardly.
  - **Seismograph:** An instrument by which seismic waves of an earthquake are monitored.
  - **Epicentre:** A point on the earth above the seismic force.
  - **Fault Zones:** Earthquake prone areas in the earth's crust.
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