

A Brief History of Lightning Research

Kristian Schlegel, MPS

Starting with Aristotle we will first review the ideas about lightning which were developed during antiquity and the middle ages. We then describe the first attempts to relate lightning and electricity which culminated in Faraday's work. Modern lightning research with spectroscopic and other measuring techniques will then be sketched. A brief account of special lightning phenomena, like ball lightning, sprites, blue jets will conclude the review.