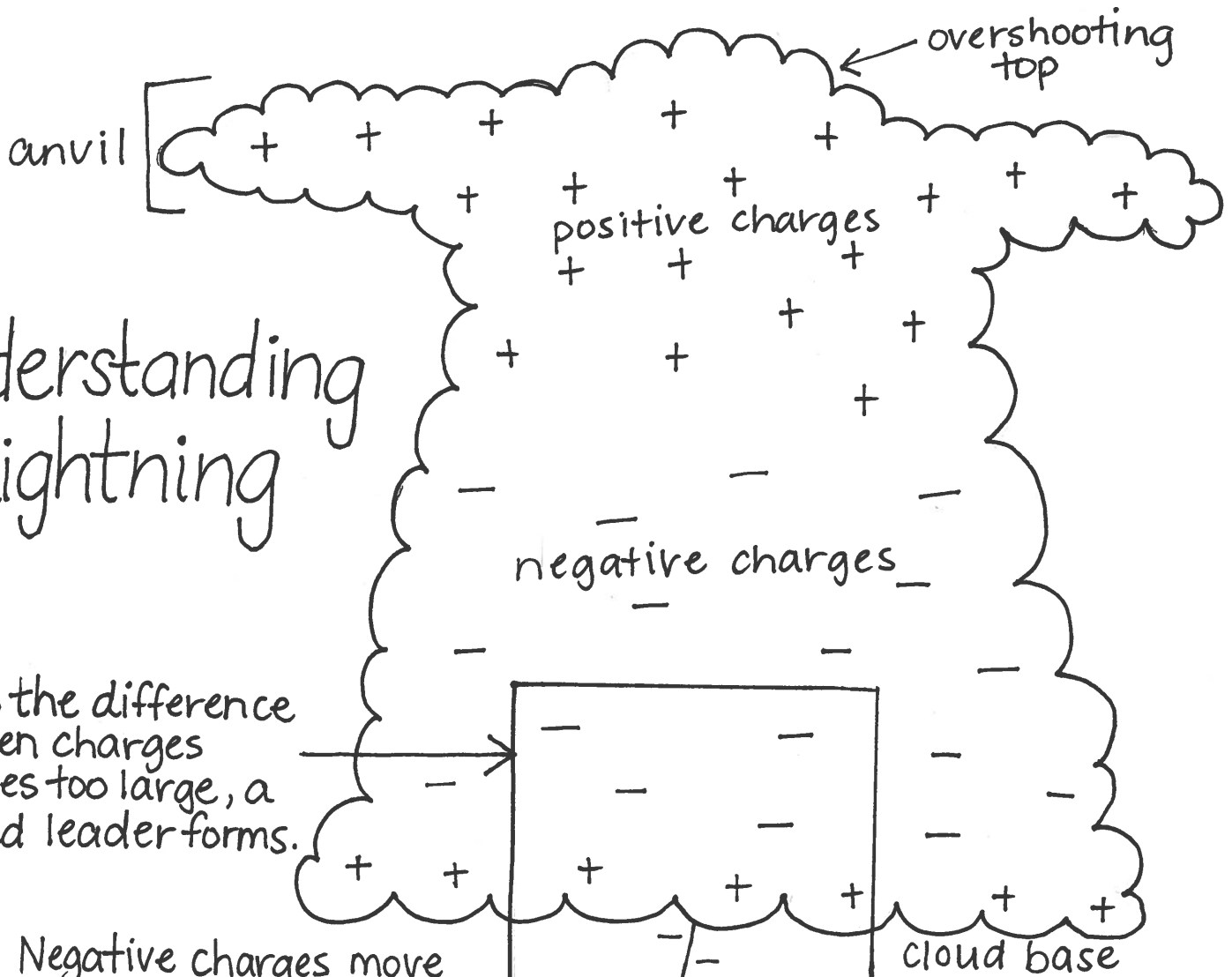


Understanding Lightning



When the difference between charges becomes too large, a stepped leader forms.

Negative charges move through a channel towards the ground in steps.

When the stepped leader makes contact with the positive charges on the ground, charges flow quickly to the ground.

The return stroke is the bright visible flash we see... lightning!

