

KS3 Geography. Richard Hammond's wild weather

How does hail form?

NARRATION: It takes very special conditions to create a hailstone.

You need summer thermals, and you need a violent thunderstorm. Because of the height of thunderclouds some of the water droplets inside them freeze.

But the powerful updrafts created by the warm weather, keep the droplets supported in the cloud, where they collect more water, with new layers freezing on in a separate shell.

Until, finally, there are so many layers that they're too heavy to be supported and they fall to the ground.