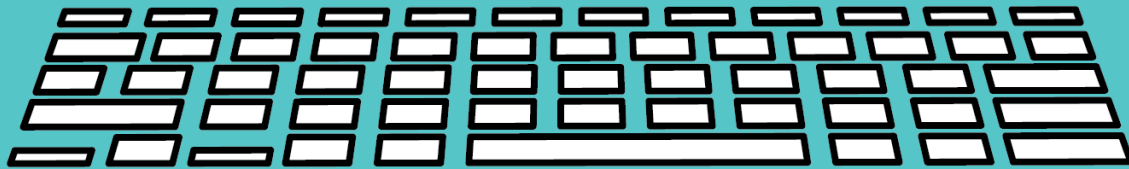


Short Answer	Type Answer Here
1. What are very tall thunderstorm clouds called?	
2. How many feet are most tornadoes average width?	
3. What do we call the U.S. area most prone to tornadoes?	
4. South hemisphere tornadoes rotate which direction?	
5. What is the highest level of the EF-scale?	
6. How many different tornado types are there?	
7. Can scientists predict tornadoes?	
8. In what state did a tornado lift an 83 ton train?	



Short Answer	Type Answer Here	Fill in the Blank	Type Answer Here
1. What are very tall, thunderstorm clouds called?		9. A tornado is a violent tube or funnel of ____.	
2. How many feet are most tornadoes average width?		10. The NOAA is the National Oceanic and ____ Administration.	
3. What do you call the U.S. area most prone to tornadoes?		11. The most dangerous tornadoes can reach speeds of ____ mph.	
4. South hemisphere tornadoes rotate which direction?		12. Waterspouts form over ____ water.	
5. What is the highest level of the EF-scale?		13. Most tornadoes travel a few ____ before dying.	
6. How many different tornado types are there?		14. How often do giant thunderstorms known as ____ occur?	
7. Can scientists predict tornadoes?		15. A tornado ____ means a tornado has already formed.	
8. In what state did a tornado lift an 83 ton train?		16. In order to be called a tornado it must touch the ____.	



TORNADOES

A tornado is a violent tube or funnel of air that rotates at high speeds. Tornadoes can be extremely dangerous because they are one of the most powerful forces of nature.

In some cases, a tube of wind is actually called a tornado if it must touch the ground. Tornadoes typically look like a narrow funnel reaching from the clouds down to the ground. Unfortunately, scientists cannot predict tornadoes.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) can issue tornado "watches" and "warnings." A tornado "watch" means that a tornado could form, so the weather conditions are right. During a "watch" you should begin to prepare for a tornado or the possibility of one.

A tornado "warning" means that a tornado has already formed and is going to happen very soon. A tornado "warning" means take action and get to a safe location.

Tornadoes occur inside giant thunderstorms known as "supercells." These powerful storms form when warm, moist air from the ground rushes up to merge with cooler, drier air. It takes more than just a thunderstorm and some clouds to cause a tornado.

First, a large thunderstorm occurs in a cumulonimbus cloud. Cumulonimbus clouds are very tall thunderstorm clouds. Next, a shift in wind direction and wind speed will occur causing swirls of air. The swirling air begins to funnel and pulls up warm air from the ground. As the rising air cools, the moisture it carries forms a massive thundercloud. Most tornadoes only travel a few miles before ending.

Most tornadoes average 250 feet in width and do not reach more than 110 miles per hour. The most dangerous tornadoes can reach speeds of over 300 miles per hour. Massive tornadoes can be more than two miles wide.

The winds from a massive tornado can tear roofs off of buildings, knock down trees, and even toss cars into the air. A P31 Mississippi

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tornado was so strong that it lifted a train weighing 83 tons and it landed 80 feet away from the track.

There are five different types of tornadoes: land-spouts, water-spouts, multiple vortexes, gustnado and supercell. A supercell is a large thunderstorm that can produce some of the most violent tornadoes. A waterspout forms over warm water. Landspouts are weak and not associated with a vortex of air from a thunderstorm. A gustnado is a small tornado formed at a weather front by gusts of wind. A multiple vortex tornado has more than one spinning tube of air.

Tornado conditions are most often found in the central and southern United States in an area known as "Tornado Alley". The warm, humid air from the Gulf of Mexico clashes with cool, dry air from the Rocky Mountains and Canada. Tornado Alley includes Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Nebraska.

Tornadoes can happen any time of year, but most form during the spring and early summer. The United States is home to the most violent tornadoes in the world. Tornadoes in the northern hemisphere usually rotate counter-clockwise while tornadoes in the southern hemisphere usually rotate clockwise.

To measure the wind speed and damage caused by a tornado, scientists use the Fujita scale, the Fujita scale, or Enhanced Fujita Scale. The scale classifies tornadoes according to the damage they cause on a scale of 0-5.

The Fujita scale was replaced with the Enhanced Fujita scale (EF-Scale) in the United States in February 2007. An EF-0 tornado is a weak tornado with winds around 75 miles per hour. Most tornadoes are classified as EF-1. An EF-1 tornado has winds of about 75-92 miles per hour and causes moderate damage.

Only about 1 percent of tornadoes are classified as EF-5, causing "incredible damage." With winds that exceed 150 miles per hour, EF-5 tornadoes cause severe damage. EF-5 is the highest level on the Fujita Scale.

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