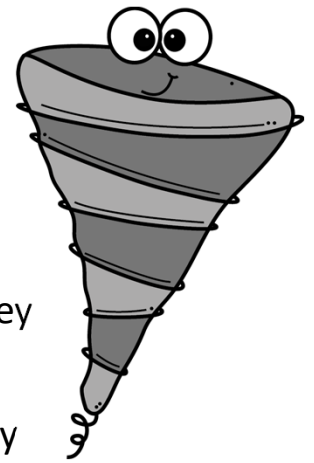


About Tornadoes



A tornado is a type of weather that can be very dangerous. It is a rotating column of air that extends from the base of a thunderstorm to the ground. Tornadoes can happen anywhere in the world, but they are most common in the United States. Tornadoes are formed by a combination of warm, moist air from the Gulf of Mexico and cool, dry air from Canada. When these two air masses meet, they create instability in the atmosphere. This instability can lead to thunderstorms, which can produce tornadoes. Tornadoes come in different shapes and sizes. Some tornadoes are thin and narrow, while others are wide and can be over a mile in diameter. The strength of a tornado is measured on the Enhanced Fujita Scale, which ranges from EF0 to EF5. An EF0 tornado is the weakest, while an EF5 tornado is the strongest. When a tornado is approaching, it is important to take shelter immediately. The safest place to be is in a basement or storm cellar. If you do not have access to a basement, go to the lowest level of a sturdy building, such as a closet or bathroom. Stay away from windows and exterior walls, and cover yourself with blankets or a mattress to protect yourself from flying debris. If you are outside and cannot get to shelter, lie flat in a low-lying area such as a ditch or ravine. Cover your head with your hands to protect yourself from flying debris. Tornadoes can be very destructive. They can uproot trees, destroy buildings, and hurl objects through the air at high speeds. After a tornado has passed, it is important to stay away from damaged areas and to listen to the instructions of local authorities. In conclusion, tornadoes are a type of weather that can be very dangerous. They are formed by a combination of warm, moist air and cool, dry air, and can come in different shapes and sizes. When a tornado is approaching, it is important to take shelter immediately in a basement or storm cellar, or in the lowest level of a sturdy building. If you are outside, lie flat in a low-lying area and cover your head with your hands. Remember to stay away from damaged areas after a tornado has passed and listen to the instructions of local authorities.

1. Read the passage about "About Tornadoes"
2. Underline any word or sentence you don't understand.

About Tornadoes

Answer according to the reading passage:

1. **A tornado can happen anywhere in the world but they are most common in:**
 - a. Europe
 - b. United States
 - c. Canada

2. **When the two air masses meet, they create instability in the:**
 - a. thunderstorm
 - b. atmosphere
 - c. clouds

3. **Where is the safest place to be during a tornado?**
 - a. basement or cellar
 - b. a ditch
 - c. a garage

4. **All tornadoes are thin and narrow:**
 - a. true
 - b. false

5. **What does 'hurl' mean in the sentence '*hurl objects at high speed*'?**
 - a. toss
 - b. break
 - c. damage

About Tornadoes

Open Response Questions

Open response questions for thinking skills:

1. Inferring
2. Making Connections
3. Summarizing
4. Visualizing

1. In your own words, how does a tornado occur?
 2. Explain your experience with a tornado or what you learned from reading this passage to prepare in the event a tornado happens.
 3. In 3 sentences summarize *"About Tornadoes"* in your own words.
 4. What comes across your mind and what do you visualize as you are reading this passage?
- What kind of advice can you give to someone if a tornado came?
 - Why is it important to stay away from damaged areas in a tornado?
 - Where do most tornadoes happen? Why is this?
 - What other weather types are dangerous?
 - What do you think is more dangerous: a tornado or an earthquake? Why?
 - What 3 questions would you ask a meteorologist about tornadoes?