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SANDSTORMS

Sandstorms happen when there is a lot of wind that happens over a desert or a place that has a lot of sand. The wind picks up the sand and carries it through the air for miles and miles. Some sandstorms can be as high as 10,000 feet in the air.



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WHAT CAUSES SANDSTORMS?

In order to have a sandstorm, there has to be wind that is at least 25 miles per hour. These sandstorms can happen really fast when the wind picks up and starts to blow the sand.

WHERE ARE MOST SANDSTORMS?

Most sandstorms happen in regions that are hot and dry. One area that experiences sandstorms is the Sahara Desert. The Sahara Desert is covered in sand and they often times have sandstorms that blow all over the area.



Other areas that are dry and flat have sandstorms. Places in the United States such as Oklahoma and Kansas are known for having sandstorms. Many of the places that experience sandstorms are farm areas. The reason that this happens on farm areas is because the area has more bare earth than other areas. When the wind blows, it carries the sand with it and in open areas this is often seen.

WHY ARE SANDSTORMS DANGEROUS?

Sandstorms are dangerous because they can blow sand fast and can cause people to get sand in their eyes and it can cause areas around to have landslides because it blows the topsoil off the ground. The topsoil helps to hold down trees and when the topsoil is gone, it can cause there to be massive landslides.

Sandstorms that are huge can cover peoples houses and cause them not to be able to get out of their homes. These storms can also cause people to have respiratory problems from breathing too much sand.

Sandstorms can destroy crops quickly and cause crops to die or to not be able to grow.

MORE FACTS ABOUT SANDSTORMS:

- Sandstorms are also called “haboobs.” Hab is a word in Arabic that means “wind.”
- Sometimes sandstorms travel from the Sahara Desert all the way across the Atlantic Ocean.
- Most of the sandstorms happen in the summertime.
- Sandstorms are in the top five weather conditions that cause the most harm to people.
- Some people call sandstorms, dust storms.
- The area must be dry in order for a sandstorm to form.
- Sandstorms sometimes happen when there is a thunderstorm because usually these produce high winds.
- In the Middle East, there are many sandstorms that happen.
- When people cut down too many trees, the sand becomes exposed and this can cause there to be more sandstorms than normal.
- When grass is present, most of the time sandstorms are stopped.
- In 1930, there was a Dust Bowl, which was dust storms that swept across the area in Southwest America. When this happened, it caused there to be droughts and people were not able to grow food.