

Discovering Tornadoes

- Reading passages
 - Comprehension questions
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 - PowerPoint Presentation
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 - Writing paper
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- ...and more!*



Tornadoes

A tornado is a violent column of twisting air. It drops down from a **cumulonimbus cloud** and touches the ground at the same time.

Tornadoes are the most **destructive** type of extreme weather.



CAUSES:

Tornadoes are formed during intense thunderstorms. In order for a tornado to form, there has to be warm, humid air mixed with cool air.



CHARACTERISTICS:

- Violent **column** of air
- Twisting
- Destructive winds

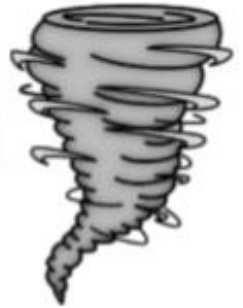
DESTRUCTION:

Violent winds are very dangerous! Tornadoes can travel many miles at a fast speed. They destroy everything in their path. People can lose their lives and homes. Tornadoes destroy the environment by tearing down buildings and trees.



INTERESTING FACTS:

- Tornadoes are sometimes called "Twisters".
- The Fujita scale is used to measure the strength of a tornado.
- There are over 1,000 tornadoes each year in the United States.
- Most tornadoes only last a few minutes.
- Tornadoes have been observed on every continent except for Antarctica.



Vocabulary Word *definitions*

column: an upright shape, similar to a cylinder.

destructive: causing a great amount of damage.

cumulonimbus cloud: clouds that are capable of thunderstorms and other severe weather.

Tornado: a violent column of twisting air.