

TORNADO Reading Comprehension

A tornado is born from a powerful storm called a supercell. Tornadoes have been reported in all states, but most tornadoes happen in the central parts of America called “Tornado Alley.” In some supercells, warm, moist air rises quickly into the atmosphere. Winds blowing at different speeds at different parts of the supercell produce wind shear and cause a horizontal, rotating column of air. A funnel cloud will form as the air column rotates faster and more tightly within the supercell. The rain and hail within the storm cause the funnel cloud to touch the ground, resulting in a tornado. The strength of a tornado is measured by what’s called the Fujita scale. The weakest tornadoes (F0) feature winds of 40–78 miles per hour, while the strongest tornadoes (F5) have winds of up to 318 miles per hour. All tornadoes can be devastating, especially if they touch down in areas with lots of people.

Tornado Outbreak

A tornado outbreak occurs when one storm system produces multiple tornadoes. Some tornado outbreaks can result in the formation of dozens of tornadoes over several states. One particularly powerful tornado outbreak occurred between April 25 and April 28 of 2011, where a record 355 tornadoes in 21 states and Canada were recorded, including an F5 tornado that completely destroyed parts of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Much of the destruction was caught on camera and broadcast across the country and internet. The same weather system produced hailstones that measured 4.5 inches across in southern Virginia. 328 people were killed as a result of the outbreak, which totaled over \$11 billion in damages.

1.) Which is NOT true about tornadoes?

- a.) They are born from supercells.
- b.) They only occur in some states.
- c.) Tornado strength is measured on the Fujita scale.
- d.) Most tornadoes occur in North America in Tornado Alley.

2.) What states have never had tornadoes?

- a.) Alaska and Hawaii
- b.) The passage doesn't say.
- c.) States outside of Tornado Alley
- d.) All states have had tornadoes.

3.) What causes the supercell to tilt downward toward the ground?

- a.) wind
- b.) warm air
- c.) rain and hail
- d.) lightning

4.) When are tornadoes most devastating?

- a.) When they hit in Tornado Alley
- b.) When wind shear occurs
- c.) When they register on the Fujita Scale
- d.) When they hit areas with lots of people

5.) Which of the following would complete the analogy:

Supercell : Tornado ::

- a.) Cloud : Lightning
- b.) Moon : Stars
- c.) Hurricane : Ocean
- d.) Thunder : Rain

6.) What is the theme of the first paragraph?

- a.) Historic Tornadoes
- b.) Wind Speed
- c.) The Fujita Scale
- d.) Birth and Strength of a Tornado

7.) Why does the author refer to the hailstones that hit Virginia as part of the tornado outbreak of April 2011?

- a.) To show that much of the damage was caught on camera
- b.) To show how long the storm lasted
- c.) To show that tornado outbreaks often happen in the spring
- d.) To show how powerful and destructive the storms were

8.) In a tornado outbreak... (select all that are true)

- a.) A single storm system can produce multiple tornadoes.
- b.) Only F5 tornadoes occur.
- c.) Storms that produce damaging hail can occur as well.
- d.) Dozens of tornadoes can form in distant locations.

9.) What did paragraph two include that paragraph one did not include?

- a.) information about the Fujita scale
- b.) information on when tornadoes become very destructive
- c.) information about how tornadoes form
- d.) a specific instance

10.) Select all that are true about the tornado outbreak of 2011.

- a.) It produced a violent hailstorm in Virginia.
- b.) It devastated Tuscaloosa, Alabama.
- c.) It spanned two nations.
- d.) It was both deadly and costly