

# Tornadoes Fast Facts (1050L)

**Instructions: COMPLETE ALL QUESTIONS AND MARGIN NOTES using the CLOSE reading strategies practiced in class. This requires reading of the article three times.**

**Step 1: Skim** the article using these symbols as you read:

(+) agree, (-) disagree, (\*) important, (!) surprising, (?) wondering

**Step 2: Number** the paragraphs. **Read** the article **carefully** and **make notes in the margin**.

Notes should include:

- Comments that show that you **understand** the article. (A summary or statement of the main idea of important sections may serve this purpose.)
- Questions you have that show what you are **wondering** about as you read.
- Notes that differentiate between **fact** and **opinion**.
- Observations about how the **writer's strategies** (organization, word choice, perspective, support) and choices affect the article.

**Step 3: A final quick read** noting anything you may have missed during the first two reads.

Your **margin notes** are part of your score for this assessment. Answer the questions carefully in **complete sentences** unless otherwise instructed.

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period \_\_\_\_\_

## Tornadoes Fast Facts



*Click on the video link or QR code to access more information about tornadoes*

(CNN) Here's some background information about tornadoes, which are funnel-shaped clouds that form under thunderclouds and contain rapidly rotating air.

### **Facts**

Most tornadoes form from severe thunderstorms. Hurricanes can also produce tornadoes.

Tornado winds may exceed 300 miles (480 kilometers) per hour.

Tornadoes can lift cars, mobile homes, and animals into the air.

Tornadoes are sometimes called "twisters."

The damage path of a tornado is usually less than 1,600 feet wide.

Most tornadoes move at less than 35 miles per hour.

Most tornadoes last only a few minutes.

The most destructive and deadly tornadoes occur from supercells, which are rotating thunderstorms with a well-defined radar circulation called a

*Notes on my thoughts,  
reactions and questions as I  
read:*

mesocyclone. Supercells can also produce damaging hail, severe non-tornadic winds, unusually frequent lightning, and flash floods.

A tornado over a body of water is called a "waterspout."

The United States has the highest number of tornado occurrences in the world with an average of more than 1,000 tornadoes reported each year.

According to the National Weather Service, in 2015 there were 36 tornado-related deaths in the United States.

Most of the tornadoes in the United States strike in Tornado Alley, which spans the Midwest and the South.

Tornadoes usually occur during the spring and early summer, most often in the late afternoon and early evening.

A tornado watch is issued by the National Weather Service when atmospheric conditions promote the forming of tornadoes.

A tornado warning is issued when Doppler radar detects a mesocyclone in a thunderstorm, or when a funnel cloud has been spotted.

A tornado emergency is enhanced wording in a tornado warning indicating a large tornado is moving into a heavily populated area. Significant widespread damage and numerous fatalities are likely. The term was coined by forecasters in May 1999 and is used sparingly.

### **Enhanced Fujita Scale**

The Fujita scale is used to estimate the wind speed of a tornado by the damage the tornado causes. EF0 is the weakest point on the Enhanced Fujita Scale and EF5 is the strongest. An EF5 tornado can tear a house off its foundation.

**Category EF1:** Wind speed between 86 and 110 miles per hour. Moderate damage. Peels the surfaces off roofs; mobile homes pushed off foundations or overturned; moving cars blown off roads.

**Category EF2:** Wind speed between 111 and 135 miles per hour. Considerable damage. Roofs torn off frame houses; mobile homes demolished; boxcars overturned; large trees snapped or uprooted; light-object missiles generated; cars lifted off the ground.

**Category EF3:** Wind speed between 136 and 165 miles per hour: Severe damage. Roofs and some walls torn off well-constructed houses; trains overturned; most trees in forest uprooted; heavy cars lifted off the ground and thrown.

**Category EF4:** Wind speed between 166 and 200 miles per hours. Devastating damage. Well-constructed houses leveled; structures with weak foundations blown away some distance; cars thrown and large missiles generated.

**Category EF5:** Wind speed 200 plus miles per hour. Incredible damage. Strong frame houses leveled off foundations and swept away; automobile-sized missiles fly through the air in excess of 100 meters (109 yards); trees debarked; incredible phenomena will occur.

*Notes on my thoughts, reactions and questions as I read:*

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### Comprehension questions – answers may be in phrases.

1. *Provide the precise name of the scale used to measure tornadoes along with the acronym used for the scale.*
2. *What governmental agency announces a tornado watch?*
3. *Define **uprooted** as used in the article.*
4. *What type of radar is used to predict rotating thunderstorms; what is another name for a rotating thunderstorm?*
5. *Define **waterspout** as used in the text.*

7/8.RI.1,4

### Answer each question in one or more complete sentences and by providing complete explanations.

1. *Explain what is meant by the statement “...incredible phenomena will occur.” Provide an example of such phenomena.*
2. *Explain the differences between the following terms: tornado watch, tornado warning, tornado emergency.*

7/8.RI.4

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3. List at least five facts provided in the video that are not listed in the text.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Which format, video or text, presents the information in the best format. Explain citing evidence from the text or video to support your claim.

7/8.RI.7

4. Review the following supplemental information from the text.

### **Top 10 Costliest Tornadoes since 1950 (in 2015 dollars)**

**May 22, 2011** - Joplin, Missouri - \$2.8 billion (actual cost) - \$2.92 billion (adjusted for inflation)  
**April 27, 2011** - Tuscaloosa, Alabama - \$2.45 billion (actual cost) - \$2.56 billion (adjusted for inflation)  
**May 20, 2013** - Moore, Oklahoma - \$2 billion (actual cost) - \$2.09 billion (adjusted for inflation)  
**June 8, 1966** - Topeka, Kansas - \$250 million (actual cost) - about \$1.81 billion (adjusted for inflation)  
**May 11, 1970** - Lubbock, Texas - \$250 million (actual cost) - \$1.5 billion (adjusted for inflation)  
**May 3, 1999** - Oklahoma City, Oklahoma - \$1 billion (actual cost) - \$1.4 billion (adjusted for inflation)  
**April 27, 2011** - Hackleburg, Alabama - \$1.3 billion (actual cost) - about \$1.35 billion (adjusted for inflation)  
**April 3, 1974** - Xenia, Ohio - \$250 million (actual cost) - \$1.19 billion (adjusted for inflation)  
**May 6, 1975** - Omaha, Nebraska - \$250 million (actual cost) - \$1.09 billion (adjusted for inflation)  
**April 10, 1979** - Wichita Falls, Texas - \$277 million (actual cost) - about \$898 million (adjusted for inflation)

Explain why the amount adjusted for inflation varies between the ten tornadoes.

7/8.RI.5