

# Tornadoes



If you ever see a big, black cloud with a funnel shaped cloud beneath it, watch out. It could be a tornado.

A tornado looks like a funnel with the fat part at the top. Inside winds may swirl up to 300 miles an hour.

If it goes through a town, the tornado could flatten homes and buildings, throw cars and trucks through the air and shatter mobile homes into splinters.

It could just hit your home and leave your neighbor's home alone or could destroy an entire town.

Sometimes you don't see the funnel first. It may be raining too hard. Or the tornado may come at night. Listen for the tornado's roar—like the sound of 1,000 trains!


## **Tornado Watch**

The National Weather Service forecasts that a tornado may develop later. The sky may be blue at the time you hear the Watch. Don't be fooled. Listen to the radio for the latest news and get to safety.


## **Tornado Warning**

When someone has seen a tornado the NWS issues a **warning**. It may be moving toward you! Dark clouds swirl in the sky. There may be thunder, lightning, heavy rain or hail. When you see large hail, you may be close to a tornado. You should already be inside. Power may go off. If you are outside, go inside immediately.

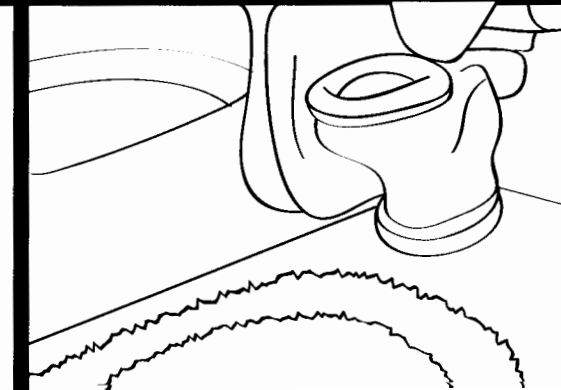
# What to do In Your Home ...



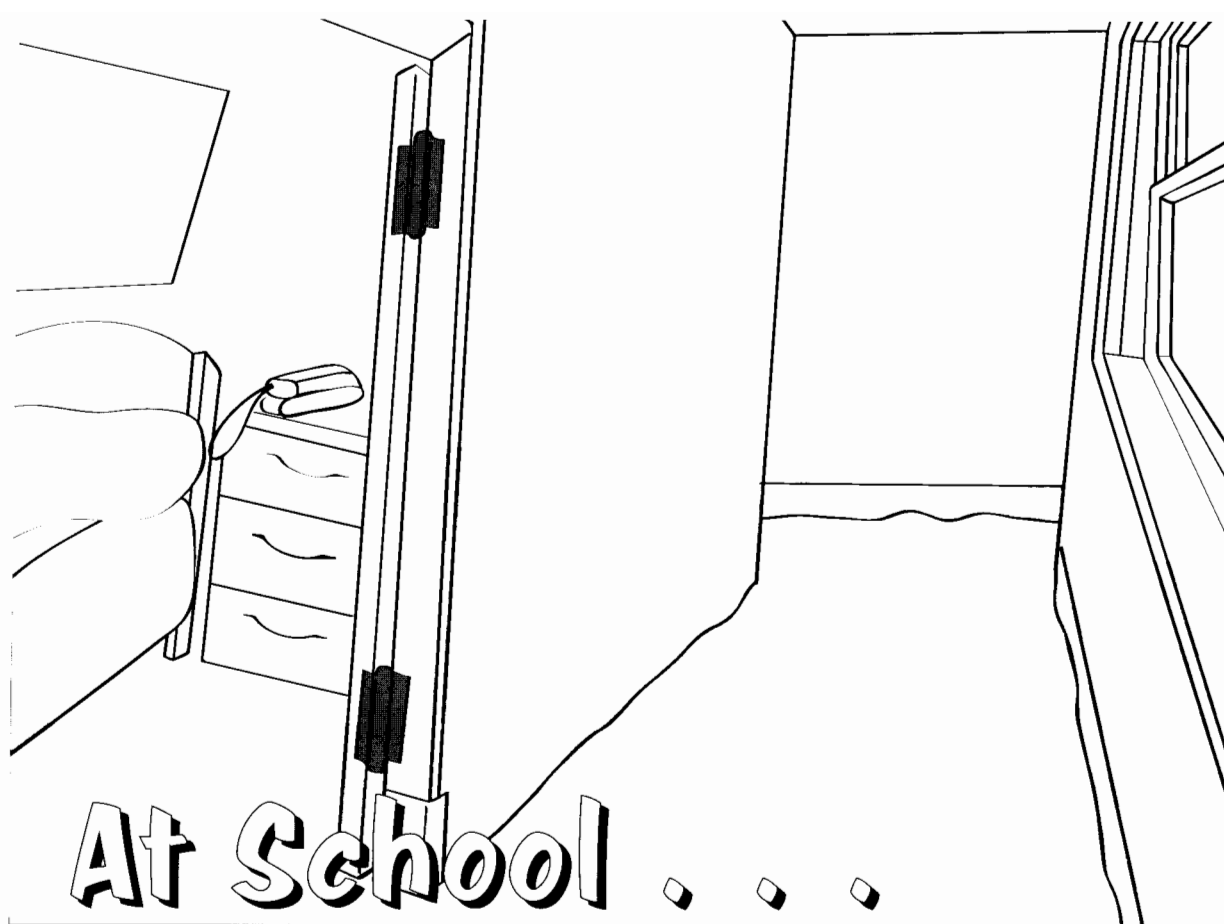
When you hear the Tornado **Watch**, keep your eye on the sky for signs of a possible tornado and listen to the radio for the latest news from the National Weather Service.



Go to the basement if you have one. Get under a heavy workbench or the stairs.



If there is no basement, go to a closet on an inside wall, a bathroom, or hallway on the lowest level of the house.



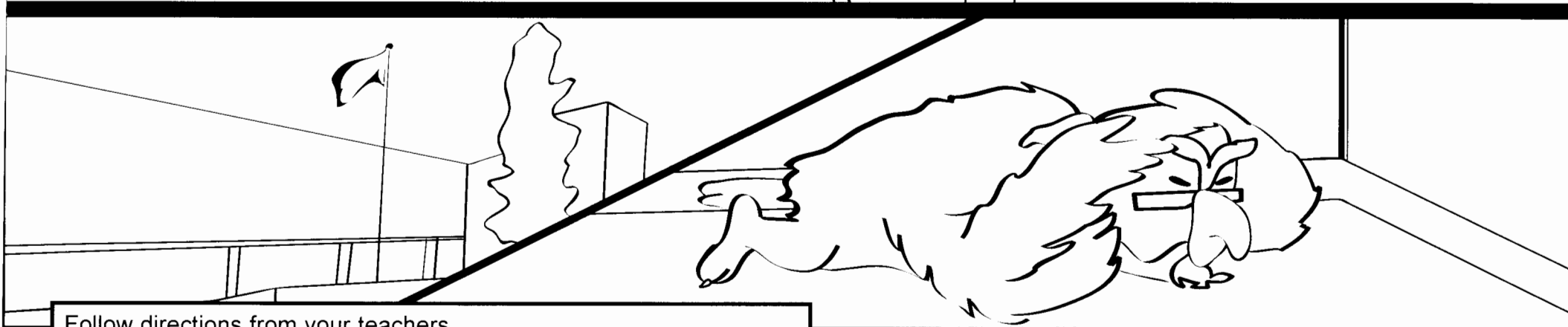
## At School . . .

### In a Store, Office or other Building . . .

- Go to the lowest level and stay away from windows and doors.
- Protect your head.

### Outside or in a Car . . .

- Get out of a car and inside a house or building.
- Don't try to outrun a tornado in a car. Tornadoes can pick up a car and throw it through the air.
- If you're caught outside, crouch low in a ditch. Or crouch near a strong building.
- Cover your head with your hands.



Follow directions from your teachers.

- Go to an inside hall on the lowest floor.
- Crouch near the wall. Bend over and put your hands on the back of your head.
- Keep away from glass windows and stay out of big rooms like the gym, cafeteria, or auditorium.
- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or a battery powered radio for warnings.

And remember, when there's a tornado there can be a lot of lightning. Stay away from anything metal—faucets, radiators, metal sinks and tubs.

Tornadoes are scary. They pack a lot of energy, enough to blow down a whole town! But you can live through a tornado. Be smart. Know what to do, and do it.

# Owlie's True Tornado Facts

In Texas a mother huddled in an inside closet with six children. A tornado ripped off the roof of their house, tore down one wall and destroyed their garage. But all seven in the closet weren't even scratched.

In 1931 a tornado in Minnesota lifted an 83-ton railroad train with 117 passengers and carried it for 80 feet.

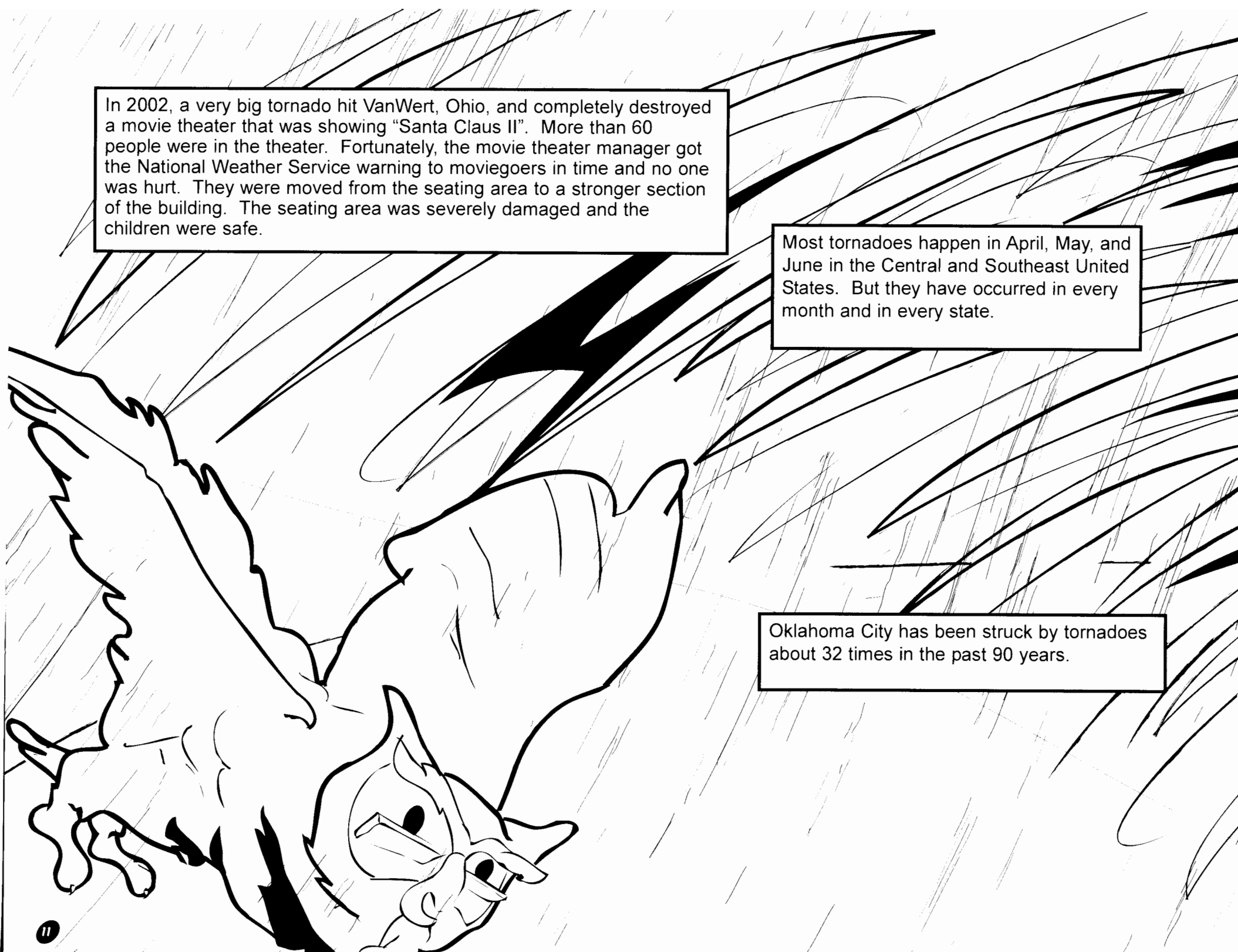
Tornadoes are rare in many parts of the United States. But they have occurred in all 50 states.

## In a Mobile Home or Trailer

If you live in a mobile home, get out. Even if it is tied down, a mobile home can be shattered by a tornado. The whole thing can be lifted up and dropped. Get out and into a safer place. Some mobile home areas have storm shelters. If you cannot get to a shelter, lie in a ditch and cover your head with your hands.

In Mississippi, a mother and her daughter sought shelter in their bathtub. After the tornado hit, the only room left was the bathroom.

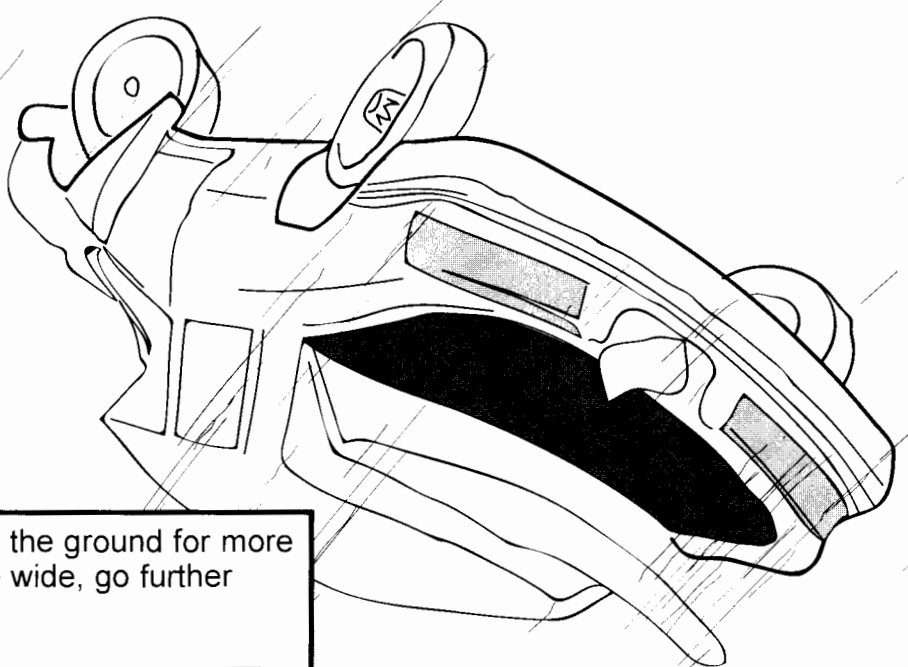




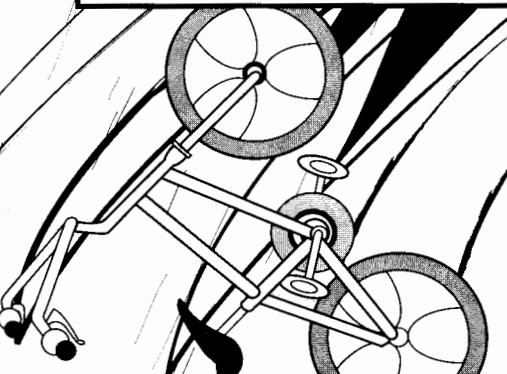
In 2002, a very big tornado hit VanWert, Ohio, and completely destroyed a movie theater that was showing "Santa Claus II". More than 60 people were in the theater. Fortunately, the movie theater manager got the National Weather Service warning to moviegoers in time and no one was hurt. They were moved from the seating area to a stronger section of the building. The seating area was severely damaged and the children were safe.

Most tornadoes happen in April, May, and June in the Central and Southeast United States. But they have occurred in every month and in every state.

Oklahoma City has been struck by tornadoes about 32 times in the past 90 years.



Most tornadoes are narrow and seldom stay on the ground for more than 15 miles. But the wider ones, up to a mile wide, go further and are the big killers.



One town, Codell, Kansas, was struck three times: In 1916, 1917 and 1918—each time on May 20.

In 1999, a series of 76 tornadoes, some with winds more than 260 miles per hour swept through northern Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas, killing several people in 4 hours. More than 9,000 homes and businesses were completely destroyed.

# Tornado Quiz

On the lines to the left, tell what you should do if a tornado is coming.

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Circle T (true) or F (false) for each sentence below.

- T F 1. A tornado looks like a funnel with the fat part at the top.
- T F 2. You will always notice a funnel before a tornado strikes.
- T F 3. A tornado destroys everything in its path.
- T F 4. A tornado may hit your home and leave your neighbor's home alone.
- T F 5. A tornado can throw cars and trucks into the air.
- T F 6. There will seldom be lightning during a tornado.
- T F 7. Go into a large room such as the school cafeteria if there is a tornado warning.
- T F 8. The sky may be blue at the time you hear a tornado watch.
- T F 9. When a tornado is coming, get out of a car and go inside a house.
- T F 10. When you hear a tornado warning, get in the car and drive as fast as you can in the opposite direction.

Fill in the blank with the correct word. Use these words:

- |              |          |             |         |
|--------------|----------|-------------|---------|
| funnel       | radio    | ditch       | train   |
| windows      | bathroom | watch       | sky     |
| warning      | hail     | mobile home | tornado |
| black clouds | basement | top         |         |

- A \_\_\_\_\_ can flatten homes and buildings.
- A tornado looks like a \_\_\_\_\_ with the fat part at the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Before a tornado, you will probably see \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.
- A tornado \_\_\_\_\_ is issued by the National Weather Service when a tornado may develop later.
- A tornado \_\_\_\_\_ is issued by the National Weather Service when a tornado has actually been seen.
- A tornado can sound like the roar of a \_\_\_\_\_.
- If you are outside when you see a tornado, go to a low spot or a \_\_\_\_\_.
- The best place to be if there is a tornado is in a \_\_\_\_\_.
- There may be thunder, lightning, rain or \_\_\_\_\_ along with the tornado.
- If you don't have a basement, the next best place to be is in a \_\_\_\_\_ or other small room in the center of the house.
- Stay away from \_\_\_\_\_ during a tornado.
- If you live in a \_\_\_\_\_, get out. It can be shattered by a tornado.
- When you hear a Tornado Watch, keep your eyes on the \_\_\_\_\_.
- You can hear a Tornado Watch by listening to NOAA Weather \_\_\_\_\_.



# Answers

## flash flood quiz (pg 32)

1. roads, 2. flash flood, 3. ground, 4. streams, 5. car  
6. bridges -- 1. T, 2. F, 3. T, 4. T, 5. F, 6. F, 7. F, 8. T,  
9. F, 10. T

## tornado quiz (pg 31)

1. tornado, 2. funnel and top, 3. black clouds, 4.  
watch, 5. warning, 6. train, 7. ditch, 8. basement, 9.  
hail, 10. bathroom, 11. windows, 12. mobile home, 13.  
sky, 14. radio -- 1. T, 2. F, 3. T, 4. T, 5. T, 6. F, 7. F, 8.  
T, 9. T, 10. F

## crossword puzzle (pgs 37-38)

### Answers: (Across)

4. Electricity, 6. Wind Chill, 7. Summer, 8. Floods  
14. Thunder, 15. Weather, 16. Hail, 17. Funnel

### Answers: (Down)

1. Forecasts, 2. Radio, 3. Eye, 5. Tornado, 7.  
Snowstorms, 9. Lightning, 10. Surge, 11. Shortest,  
12. Warning, 13. Hurricane

## hazards (pg 35)

1. Tornado, 2. hurricane, 3. hurricane, lightning and  
tornado, 4. winter storm and lightning, 5. flash  
flood, 6. lightning, 7. hurricane, lightning, winter  
storm, and tornado, 8. hurricane, tornado, and win-  
ter storm, 9. hurricane, tornado, winter storm and  
flash flood, 10. tornado

## true & false (pg 36)

1. F-lightning, 2. T, 3. F-Flooding,  
4. F, 5. F-anywhere 6. F, 7. T, 8. F, 9. T, 10. F

## winter storm quiz (pg 30)

1. watch, 2. warning, 3. kitty litter, 4. antenna, 5.  
carbon monoxide, 6. layers, 7. mittens, 8. winter,  
9. wind chill, 10. snowdrift -- 1. T, 2. F, 3. T, 4. F, 5.  
F, 6. T, 7. T, 8. T, 9. F, 10. F

## lightning quiz (pg 29)

1. die, 2. telephone, 3. thunder, 4. explode, 5.  
tallest, 6. shortest, 7. electricity, 8. tree, 9. fire,  
10. water -- 1. F, 2. T, 3. F, 4. T, 5. F, 6. F, 7. T, 8.  
F, 9. F, 10. T

## hurricane quiz (pg 33)

1. air, 2. moving, 3. oceans, 4. hurricanes,  
5. high tides and flooding, 6. watch,  
7. warning, 8. radio, 9. inland, 10. eye --  
1. F, 2. T, 3. F, 4. F, 5. T, 6. F, 7. T, 8. F, 9. F, 10. T

## fill in the blanks (pg 34)

1. Tornado, 2. tornado, 3. lightning, 4. winter  
storm, 5. flash flood, 6. hurricane, 7. hurricane,  
8. tornado, 9. hurricane, 10. tornado.