

NONFICTION TEXT FEATURES:

Wild, Wild Weather

Text features help a reader navigate the text. They give more information about the text.

Examples: illustrations, photographs, captions, maps, charts, graphs, headings, table of contents, side bar

Directions: Read the passage and answer the questions on page 2.

"It's raining! It's pouring! The old man is snoring!" Have you ever heard that song? It is a famous tune about the weather. Weather is something that affects all of us daily. Extreme weather is something that affects most people only a few times in their lives.

Extreme weather includes flooding rains, tornadoes, blizzards, and hurricanes. People study weather so they can inform us. These are the people who give us the information we need so that we can remain safe in the case of extreme weather.

Tornadoes

A tornado is a storm that can cause destruction in its path. Winds can reach up to 300 mph! Tornadoes form from thunderstorms. They are most common in an area of the United States called Tornado Alley. This area is where many tornadoes form because of the way the air moves. Cool, dry air from the north and warm, moist air from the south meet. This causes thunderstorms, which can become severe. When the atmosphere is not stable, the winds can increase and produce a tornado.

Waterspouts

A waterspout is a weak tornado. It forms over water. It can happen on the ocean. It can happen on smaller bodies of water, such as lakes.

Waterspouts are most common in the Gulf of Mexico. They have occurred in the tropics as well. Waterspouts can pick up things, such as animals or tree limbs, and drop them in other places. If a waterspout moves onto land, it becomes a tornado and can cause damage.

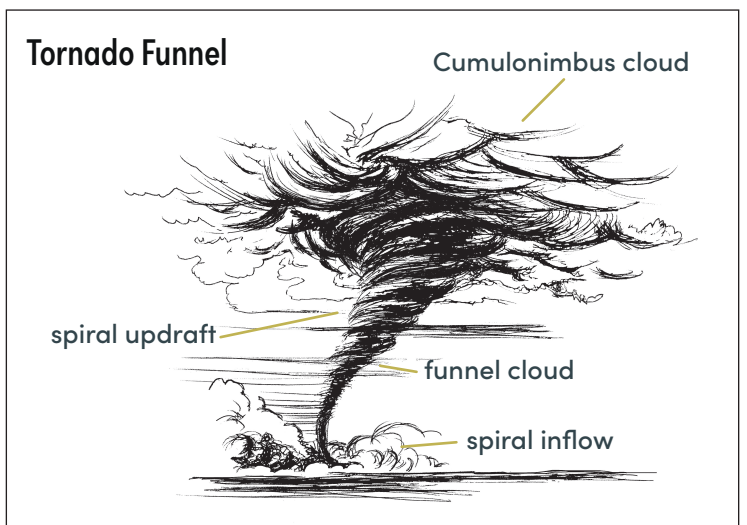
Wild weather comes in many forms. Tornadoes and waterspouts are directly related and look alike. Both weather events require attention because they can be dangerous to humans and animals. Wild weather is fascinating, and it is completely unpredictable sometimes!



Usually a tornado is in the form of a funnel-shape. Sometimes it looks like a rope.



Tornado Alley



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Directions: Use the passage on page 1 to answer the following questions.

1. What information does the map show?

The map shows the location of Tornado Alley in the United States.

2. What does the diagram show?

The diagram shows the shape of a tornado and the different parts of it.

3. What information can you gather from the caption under the picture?

The caption explains that tornadoes can take different shapes.

4. Complete a t-chart to record information about the two types of wild weather.

tornado	waterspout
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• form over land• mostly in Tornado Alley• they form out of thunderstorms• cause destruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• form over water• can pick things up and move them other places• can be a problem if they move onto land

5. Why does the author use headings in this nonfiction text?

The author uses the headings in a nonfiction text to separate and organize information.

The headings help the reader know what the section will be mostly about. In this text, there is a section about tornadoes and a section about waterspouts.