

Learn About Tornadoes

Answer Key!

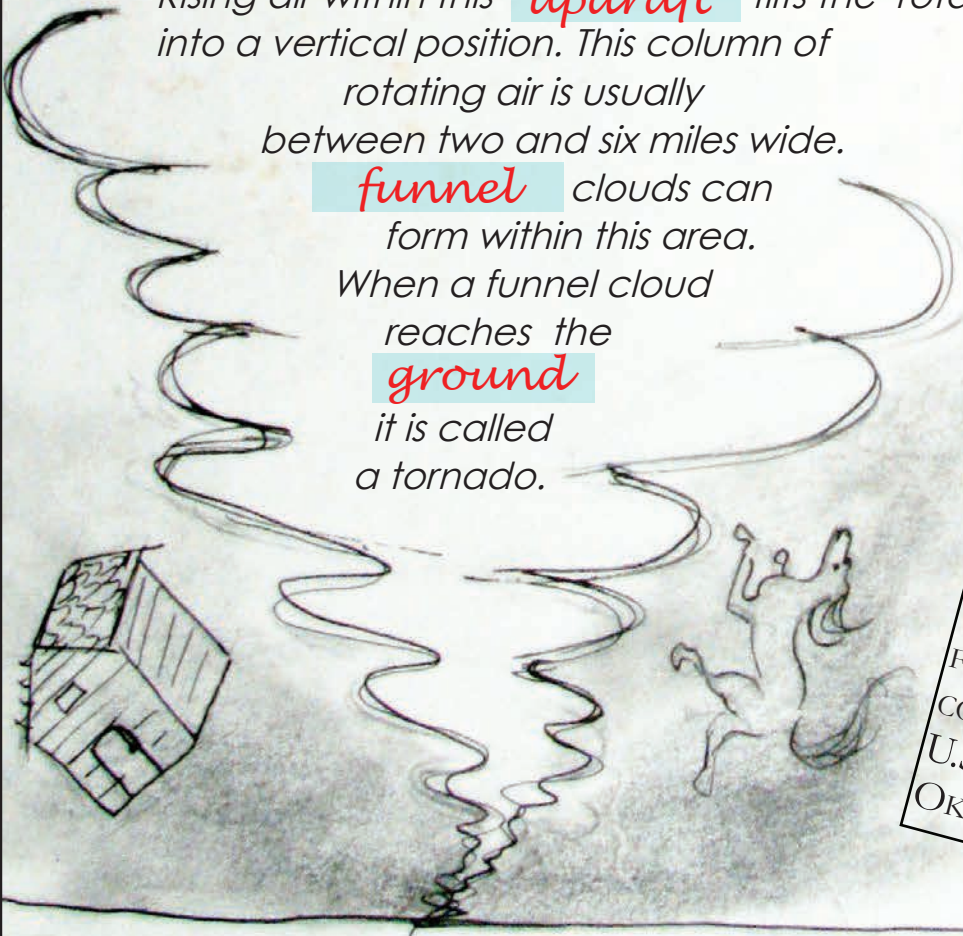
A tornado is a spiraling **column** of air that reaches from a cloud to land. Tornadoes can reach speeds of up to **300** miles per hour and can cause significant destruction! In the **U.S.A.** there are about 1,000 tornadoes each year. Most of these tornadoes occur in an area called Tornado Alley. Tornado alley is right in the middle of the country and includes the states Texas, Kansas and **Oklahoma**

Most tornadoes form during **thunderstorms**. When warm, moist air and cool, dry air mix the atmosphere becomes unstable. With a change in wind speed and direction a spinning effect begins to take place.

Rising air within this **updraft** tilts the rotating air into a vertical position. This column of rotating air is usually between two and six miles wide.

funnel clouds can form within this area.

When a funnel cloud reaches the **ground** it is called a tornado.



Use the word bank below to fill the empty spaces in the paragraph.

WORD BANK

300
GROUND
THUNDERSTORMS
UPDRAFT
FUNNEL
COLUMN
U.S.A.
OKLAHOMA