

# Issue 23, 2022

## **Founded by Betty Debnam**



Twisting Tornadoes



You might have found yourself looking up at the sky more often lately, wondering if it will rain. Thunderstorms occur most often in the spring and summer months, and with those comes an increased chance of severe weather, including tornadoes.

May and June are the months when tornadoes occur most often. The Mini Page takes a spin through the world of tornadoes this week.

#### **Formation**

A tornado, or twister, is a rapidly spinning column of air that occurs during a thunderstorm. A tornado reaches from a storm cloud in the sky all the way to the ground.

A lot about tornadoes is still a mystery, but

we know they occur when warm, humid air barrels into cold, dry air. A spinning cloud that doesn't reach the ground is



called a **funnel cloud**. A thunderstorm is formed when the heavier cold air is pushed over the warm air. National Geographic explains, "The warm air rises through the colder air, causing an updraft. The updraft will begin to rotate if the winds vary sharply in speed or direction."

That's when a tornado can form.

#### Spin

Tornadoes in the Southern Hemisphere, or the part of Earth below the equator, tend to rotate clockwise. However, tornadoes in the Northern Hemisphere, or above the equator, usually rotate counterclockwise. This isn't always the case, but it happens quite often.

#### Seeing double

Sometimes a single storm can produce

multiple tornadoes.

Tornadoes can last on the ground for a few seconds or up to an hour. On average, though, a tornado lasts



less than 10 minutes — most often around two or three minutes.

#### Water droplets

Since a tornado is made of air, you might wonder how it's possible to see it in the first place. A few things factor into this process.

First, water droplets in the air make the rotation of a tornado visible to our eyes. Second, as the tornado gains speed and stability, it picks up objects and dirt along its path. These things help give the rotating air, or funnel, a form that we can see with our eyes.

Next Week: Severe weather: Lightning

#### Warnings

In 1925, the Tri-State Tornado struck Missouri, Illinois and Indiana, killing 695 people. That was the deadliest single tornado in U.S. history.

Meteorologists (weather experts), along with other people who research storms, have worked a lot during the years since

then to find out more about tornadoes so people have a better chance of survival.

Through early warning



systems and sirens, people have more time now to seek shelter than they've ever had in the past.

#### What to do

If you ever need to seek shelter from a tornado, go to your basement if possible. If not, go to a room in the interior part of the lowest floor of your house that has no windows, like a bathroom or closet.

You might talk to a grown-up about any plans they have for severe weather. A trial run of acting out what you need to do during a time like this might be helpful.

#### Resources

# On the Web:

### At the library:

bit.ly/MPTornadoes

- "The Everything KIDS' Weather Book" by Joseph Snedeker
- "Tornado!" by Judy Fradin and Dennis Fradin

# Try 'n' Find

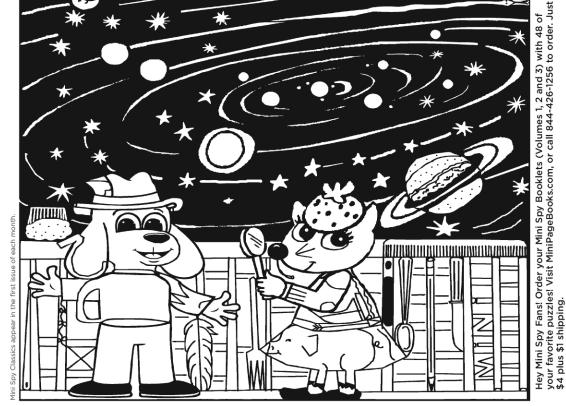
Words that remind us of tornadoes are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:





### Mini Spy Classics

Mini Spy and Basset Brown are observing a map of a galaxy. See if you can find the hidden pictures. Then color the picture.



exclamation mark

- man in the
- moon
- pig pencil kite
- feather ladder

heart

- hamburger
- sailboat
- knife • number 0
- word MINI
- needle
- fork
- number 2

- - spoon cane

comb

strawberry arrow

mes ] 844-

- mug
- sock
- muffin snake

tooth

Mini Jokes

Ada: Why did the tornado take a break? Alan: It was out of wind!

Researchers say they have found that the best way to avoid being targeted by mosquitoes is to shift your wardrobe to colors the biters are not attracted to. Biologists from the University of Washington found that after the insects catch a whiff of carbon dioxide from human breath, they target anyone wearing the longer wavelength colors of red, orange, black and cyan for their next blood meals.

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#### For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about tornadoes.

Teachers: Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!



