



“HOME OF THE WORLD’S WORST WEATHER LIVE”

## Mount Washington Observatory Presents The Science of Tornadoes

*The following instructions represent additional resources for continued study of the topics covered in our “Mount Washington Observatory Presents The Science of Thunderstorms” online class. All materials are the property of Mount Washington Observatory. Any websites included are the property of the individual website owners and have been reviewed by a Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium educator.*

ACTIVITY SHEET: Wednesday, May 27, 2020

### Tornadoes



Above: A tornado in Camp, Colorado. Image credit: Cultura RM Exclusive/Jason Persoff Stormdoctor

Since 1932, scientists living at the top of Mt. Washington, New Hampshire have been collecting weather data used in forecasting and climate research. How do they do it?

In this program we will learn all about one of the most destructive types of severe weather most commonly associated with Spring: **Tornados!**

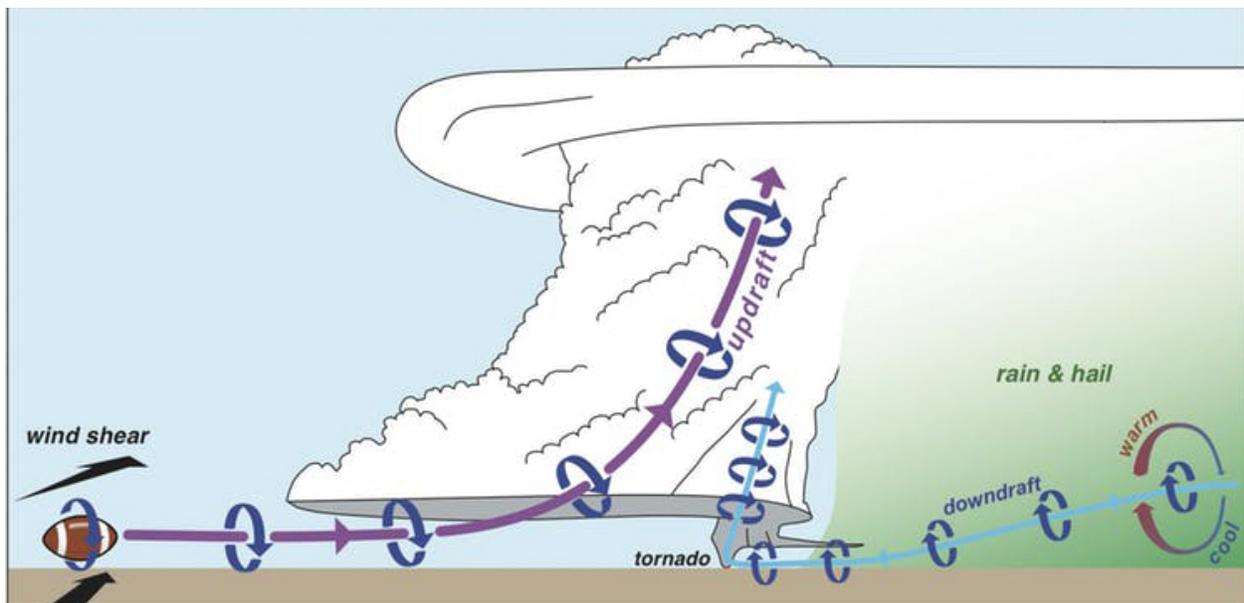


Image Credit: Paul Markowski, Penn State University

### Tornado Formation:

Visit [this TedED webpage](#) and watch the video about how tornadoes form. Then answer the following:

- ***What type of thunderstorm do tornadoes typically form in?***
- ***What's the difference between a funnel cloud and a tornado?***
- ***What causes the rotation in a thunderstorm, and ultimately in a tornado?***

### The Fujita Scale:

Go to [National Geographic's Tornadoes and the Enhanced Fujita Scale](#) page and answer the following questions:

- *What US State has the most tornadoes on average each year?*
- *What are the two regions that see the most frequent destructive tornadoes?*
- *What is the main difference between the Fujita Scale and rating scale for hurricanes?*
- *What stage begins to threaten mobile homes? What stage rips the bark off of trees and lifts car-sized debris?*

### Tornado Safety:

Visit the [Federal Emergency Management Agency's \(FEMA\) website](#) and answer the following:

- *Where should you take shelter inside your home if you are under a tornado warning?*
- *What are the signs of a tornado?*
- *What's one thing you can do now to prepare for a tornado?*
- *Knowing what you do now, what questions do you still have about tornadoes?*

A yellow poster with a black background. At the top, the text "When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!" is written in large, bold, yellow letters. To the right of the text is a yellow lightning bolt striking a cloud. Below the text, the word "STOP" is underlined in black, followed by "all activities." in black. Below that, the text "Seek shelter in a substantial building or hard-topped vehicle." is written in black. Further down, "Wait 30 minutes after the storm to resume activities." is written in black. At the bottom left is the NOAA logo, and at the bottom right is the National Weather Service logo. In the center, the website "www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov" is written in black.

**When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!**

**STOP all activities.**

Seek shelter in a substantial building or hard-topped vehicle.

Wait 30 minutes after the storm to resume activities.

[www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov](http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov)

*If you want to have your questions answered by Weather Observers at Mount Washington Observatory, join us for our "Home of the World's Worst Weather Live" programs on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:15 AM Eastern on our Facebook page and submit a question during the program! Can't make it live? We'll have recorded versions of the programs available after they air on our webpage [MountWashington.org/classroom](http://MountWashington.org/classroom). If you'd like to send your question in ahead of time, email [Education@mountwashington.org](mailto:Education@mountwashington.org) and we'll try our best to answer your question live from the summit!*

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