



Summary

Earth's Power: Tornadoes describes a type of violent weather and the effects tornadoes have on the areas they hit. It addresses how tornadoes form and are tracked, and it explores the strength and devastation tornadoes are capable of causing.

Vocabulary		Comprehension Strategy	Genre Study	Text Features	
funnel cloud	hail	Asking questions, Determining main idea and supporting details	Text structure: Description/list structure, Use of embedded definitions and description	table of contents	headings
mesocyclone	meteorologist			photographs	charts
radar	supercells			captions	text boxes
updraft	waterspout			index	glossary
				bold glossary words	

Standards: Geography and Science

- Understands how physical systems affect human systems
- Knows natural hazards that occur in the physical environment
- Knows the physical processes that shape patterns on Earth's surface
- Knows that short term weather conditions change daily, and weather patterns change over the seasons

Kendall, J. S., & Marzano, R. J. (2004). *Content knowledge: A compendium of standards and benchmarks for K-12 education*. Aurora, CO: Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL). Online database: www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/

Discussion Prompts Prior to Independent Reading

Vocabulary Building and Background Knowledge:

Read the title and ask students if they are familiar with windstorms or tornadoes. Scaffold a discussion that builds on the background knowledge of students and introduces them to the vocabulary words.

Discussion questions:

- What are *supercells*?
- An *updraft* is a current of rising air. What is the difference between an *updraft* and a *mesocyclone*?
- *Radar* is a tool *meteorologists* use to help predict tornadoes. What kind of tools do you think a storm chaser would use?

Genre Study and Text Features:

State that **Earth's Power: Tornadoes** is an informational text

written as a description of tornadoes, their effects on the land they hit, and how they form. Highlight genre characteristics and text features that will support students in reading the text.

Highlight prompts:

- Look at the text in the green margin on page 7 of your book. What information is in the margin? Do you think this information is stated in the text as well? Look through the rest of the book at the text in the margins. Is it important to read this information?
- On page 8 several words are in bold print. What does that tell you about the word?

Reading the Book:

Have students read the book independently or with a partner.

Comprehension Questions

After students have completed reading **Earth's Power: Tornadoes** gather students together for a discussion based on the questions below or assign students to answer the questions independently or with a partner.

- In your own words, what is a tornado?
- What similarities do meteorologists and storm chasers share?

BLM: Extension Activity

Students may use the concept chart on the next page to summarize what they have learned about tornadoes. Who, what, where, when, and why are included.



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Name: _____

Date: _____

Summarizing Concepts

Directions: Use the concept chart below to summarize what you have learned about tornadoes.

Who do tornadoes effect?
What does a tornado do to the affected area?
Where do tornadoes most often occur?
When do tornadoes most often occur?
Why do tornadoes form?