

Tornadoes

A tornado is a _____, _____ storm that can cause tremendous _____. Most of the tornadoes on Earth happen in the United States, but they have been recorded on all continents except Antarctica.

Tornadoes usually form in _____, where winds _____ at different speeds cause a _____ rotating tube of air called a _____. The vortex is pushed upwards by an _____ of warm air, creating a vertical _____ of rotating air. The _____ sucks up more warm air, while the cold wind, rain and hail push down. This causes the wind to form a _____ shape, spinning faster and faster. Eventually, the funnel can touch down on the ground, becoming a _____.

Many tornadoes are small and only last a few minutes, but larger tornadoes can be _____, with wind speeds of up to 300 miles an hour. The strong updraft of a tornado can suck large _____ up into the air, however it is often the flying _____ thrown around by the _____ winds that causes much of the damage and loss of life.

Tornadoes are both fascinating and terrifying, an unpredictable and powerful natural disaster.