

Our earth

1 Exciting weather?

Would you like to see a tornado? Why? Why not? Tell a partner.

USEFUL PHRASES

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| - cool | - exciting |
| - scary | - dangerous |
| - something different | - no place to go |

NEW WORDS

tornado	Tornado	to spin	im Kreis drehen
thunderstorm	Gewitter	funnel cloud	Trichterwolke
moist	feucht	warning	Warnung
dry	trocken	cellar	Keller
to rise	aufsteigen		



2 Tornadoes in the USA

a) Complete this text and find out more about tornadoes. Use the words from the boxes.

warning meet winds (2x) cellar dangerous
spin thunderstorms funnel cloud

Tornadoes usually come after _____ when warm, moist air and cool, dry air _____. In the USA _____ from the Gulf of Mexico are often warm and moist, _____ from Canada cool and dry. When these winds meet, the warm air rises and the air starts to _____ into a huge cloud, which looks like a funnel. This is the beginning of a tornado. When the _____ reaches the ground, it is called a tornado.

Tornadoes can happen at any time of the year and at any time of the day. Most tornadoes happen on the Great Plains of the USA. Why are tornadoes so _____? You never know when a funnel cloud will turn into a tornado and most people don't have much _____. The best place to go in a tornado is under the house in the _____.

b) Find the Great Plains on a map of the USA. Tell a partner why this area has over 500 tornadoes every year.

3 The Fujita Scale

The Fujita Scale tells you the speed and the damage of tornadoes.

scale	wind speed	damage
F0	64–116 km/h	branches on trees break
F1	117–180 km/h	trees break; damage to roofs
F2	181–253 km/h	trees come out of the ground; roofs come off houses
F3	254–332 km/h	trains turn over; cars come off the ground
F4	333–418 km/h	houses are destroyed; cars fly 300m in the air
F5	419–512 km/h	the tornado blows whole houses or parts of houses away

a) Which number on the scale goes with these sentences?

1. "Where is the forest? The trees are on the ground!"

2. "Thank goodness! There is no real damage!"

3. "Isn't that Mary's car? Why is it in our garden?"

4. "Look at the train! It's off the tracks."

NEW WORDS

scale	Skala
speed	Geschwindigkeit
damage	Schaden
branch	Ast
roof	Dach
ground	Boden
destroyed	zerstört
track	Schiene

b) Which number goes with picture B on page 1?

Lösungen

1

individuelle Antworten. Mögliche Antwort: I would like to see a tornado because it would be cool. It's exciting to see what can happen in a tornado. Of course, I don't want to be there, just see it. – I wouldn't like to see a tornado because I don't like the damage to the houses and the people. I think it's scary and dangerous and nothing for me.

2

a) thunderstorms, meet, winds, winds, spins, funnel cloud, dangerous, warning, cellar
 b) The Great Plains have over 500 tornadoes every year because cold, dry air from Canada meets warm, moist air from the Gulf of Mexico.
 Hintergrundinformation: Die Great Plains (Große Ebenen, Prärie) reichen von der kanadischen Grenze im Norden der USA bis nach Südtexas. Die Westgrenze bilden die Rocky Mountains, die Ostgrenze ist schwerer zu definieren. Die Breite der Great Plains beträgt insgesamt etwa 500 Kilometer.

3

a) sentence 1 = F2, sentence 2 = F0, sentence 3 = F4, sentence 4 = F3
 b) picture B = F4