

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## *Night of the Twisters* Student Activity Guide

Based upon "[An Online Extension For Night of the Twisters](#)"  
developed by Helen DeWitt & Ben Bergstrand, King Middle Grade

(After the red \_ following each question below, enter your response.)

**A. Look at the questions below, and then read the "Tornado!" section from [Tornadoes... Nature's Most Violent Storms](#) (<http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/NWSTornado/>) to answer these questions.**

1. In an average year, how many tornadoes are reported nationwide? \_
2. Define a tornado: \_
3. How fast can the winds of a tornado move? \_
4. How wide can the damage path of a tornado be? \_
5. How long can the path be? \_
6. Explain how tornadoes develop... \_

**B. Use the section titled "Tornadoes Take Many Shapes and Sizes" to answer the following:**

1. What % of all tornadoes are **weak** tornadoes? \_
2. How many minutes do **weak** tornadoes last? \_
3. What is the wind speed of a **weak** tornado? \_
4. What % of all tornadoes are **strong** tornadoes? \_
5. How many minutes do **strong** tornadoes last? \_
6. What is the wind speed of a **strong** tornado? \_
7. What % of all tornadoes are **violent** tornadoes? \_
8. How many minutes do **violent** tornadoes last? \_
9. What is the wind speed of a **violent** tornado? \_
10. Which type of tornado kills the most people? \_

**C. Read the section called "Frequency of Tornadoes" to answer the following:**

1. When can tornadoes occur? \_
2. In Southern states, during what months will most tornadoes occur? \_
3. In Northern states, when will most tornadoes occur? \_

**D. See the sections titled “Stay Informed” and “What to listen for” to answer the following questions:**

1. What does “tornado watch” mean? \_
2. What does a tornado warning mean? \_
3. What does a severe thunderstorm watch mean? \_
4. What does a severe thunderstorm warning mean? \_

**E. List environmental clues to watch for that might indicate a tornado.**

(Hint: using the bold print and section titles can help you find this information quickly):

- \_
- \_
- \_
- \_

**F. Skim the “Tornado safety” section to find out what you can do if a warning is issued or threatening weather approaches...**

Below tell 3 things you should do...

- \_
- \_
- \_

**G. Tornado Trailhead (virtual tour site)**

Visit *each* of the 6 tornado links below. For each of the 6 pages, use complete sentences to compose a brief summary of what the pictures and text on each page were meant to convey.

<http://www.chaseday.com/tornadoes.htm> \_

<http://www.chaseday.com/TORNADOES-1.htm> \_

<http://www.chaseday.com/tornadoes1.htm> \_

<http://www.chaseday.com/tornadoes-3.htm> \_

<http://www.chaseday.com/tornadoes4.htm> \_

<http://www.chaseday.com/tornadoes5.htm> \_

**H. After completing all of the sections above, watch several of the [movie clips](#) about tornadoes (<http://www.stormvideo.com/tornado.html>) and be prepared to discuss with the class or write about what you saw and learned from these clips.**