

Twisting Tornadoes

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Introduction

By Amanda Bennett

Tornado—most adults cringe at the mention of the word, but children are usually curious about them, wanting to learn more about tornadoes. There is much we can learn about tornadoes, including respect for their destructive power and how to stay safe from their devastating effects. Children are curious to learn about tornadoes, and that is exactly why this study was written.

Spring brings so many beautiful changes; along with warmer weather, we can see budding trees, green grass, and birds nesting. However, it also brings a greater threat of tornadoes to many places. With the interest in the world outside, this presents the perfect time to explore the weather and the storms that come with spring. Let's jump in and explore and learn about the signs and safety reminders for this exciting season.

With the Download N Go™ unit studies, you are about to begin a new kind of learning experience. Each study is one week in length, having five daily lessons with lapbook components for each day. The name, Download N Go™, comes from the concept that these studies are ready to use as soon as you have downloaded them. No preparation or waiting time or other expensive resources are required. A few inexpensive items are needed for the lapbook—a simple file folder, a glue stick, safety scissors, brass brads, and crayons or markers. That's it—simple, effective, and what a way to learn!

Now that you are beginning *Twisting Tornadoes*, get ready for a wonderful learning adventure about this extreme weather event. Your child will investigate how tornadoes form, where they typically form, how they work, and how to watch for the signs of tornado weather. Each day he will explore and investigate, creating and adding more learning components to his *Twisting Tornadoes* lapbook—building a wonderful reminder of all that he is learning to be enjoyed for years to come.

From the time a child is very young, there is a fascination with the vortex that forms as the water drains from the bathtub. Using this concept, we make the transition to several kinds of vortex formations in nature, as well as showing you how to make your own using water and plastic soda bottles. From dust devils to “snow-nadoes,” these exciting weather events will keep children learning and investigating the world and weather of the seasons.

I hope that you and your family learn plenty with *Twisting Tornadoes*—I know I did as I was researching and writing it. Most people believe the myth that tornadoes do not

form in the mountains, but we had one form right over our mountain farm one spring day—green sky and all! We will be busting myths like this and learning how to stay safe as we go on this adventure. I'm off to work on the next title in the Download N Go™ Series, and I think you all will enjoy this one after *Twisting Tornadoes*. It is called *Expedition Ireland*. It is to be released in March, just in time for those March winds and the green shamrocks pushing up from the ground in the springtime!



Note to parents: Remember that Internet site content can change overnight. Please check the sites that you plan to use before your child visits them in the study.

Daily Objectives

Day 1: What Is a Tornado?

1. How would you describe a tornado?
2. What is the definition of a tornado?
3. What other names are used for tornadoes?
4. Tornado safety is important!

Day 2: Where in the World Are Tornadoes Formed?

1. What parts of the world have tornadoes?
2. Learn about clockwise and counterclockwise spin.
3. Tornadoes spin differently in different hemispheres.
4. What parts of the United States have tornadoes?

Day 3: How Tornadoes Form and Tornado Myths

1. Tornadoes are part of what kind of storm?
2. What are the three main steps for tornado formation?
3. What is a waterspout?
4. Learn about tornado myths.

Day 4: Science Secrets of Tornadoes

1. What time of year do most tornadoes occur?
2. How do they predict tornadoes?
3. Tornado watch vs. tornado warning—what's the difference?
4. How do they measure tornado strength?

Day 5: Tornado Experiments and Tornado Safety

1. Do some tornado experiments, online and at home!
2. See other vortex forms in nature.
3. How are the U.S. Postal Service, artwork, and tornadoes connected?
4. Map out your safety plan.

Day 1

What Is a Tornado?

Tornado—what do you think of first when you hear that word? *Write your answer below.*





Look up the definition of **tornado**. *Write your answer below.*

Tornado

A large, blue-outlined thought bubble shape that serves as a container for a definition. It has a thick blue border and a white interior.

What is a funnel? *Write your answer below.*

Funnel

Here is a picture of a funnel and a tornado. Can you see why they say that a tornado is shaped like a funnel?



Here is one of the earliest pictures ever taken of a tornado:

Tornadoes

Where was this picture taken? _____