

TORNADOES

This description of tornadoes is non-fiction. Even so, the writer has used some interesting words to give the reader some idea of what a tornado is like.

Tornadoes

A tornado is a spinning tunnel of air that stretches from the bottom of a cloud down to the Earth. A common name for a tornado in America is *twister*.

Most tornadoes travel a few miles before dying out. More powerful tornadoes can travel over 100 miles and destroy houses.



In 1925, the deadliest tornado in the history of the USA started off as a 'smoky fog' then travelled 219 miles and killed 695 people.

Most tornadoes take place in the middle of the USA. Because of this, the area is known as Tornado Alley. Here, there are more tornadoes than anywhere else in the world: around 1200 in a year. But the world's most violent tornado occurred in Bangladesh in 1989, killing 1300 people.

Some reporters and photographers will chase tornadoes in order to get good pictures of them. They are known as *tornado hunters*. The safest place to be during this kind of violent storm is down in a basement or cellar. Don't stand near a window. Sometimes, they can travel at 60 mph. So don't go outside unless you drive in the opposite direction.

1. What is the common name given to a tornado in America?



2. Why is this a good name for a tornado?

3. How far can more powerful tornadoes travel?

4. When did the **deadliest tornado** take place in the USA?

5. What did it look like when it started off?

6. What name is given to the part of the USA where tornadoes are common?

7. Where did the world's most violent tornado take place?

8. What name is given to people who chase tornadoes?
