



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Natural Disasters - Lesson 1

direction  
tornado  
twisters

supercells  
destruction  
complex

atmosphere  
Fujita  
formed

touches  
down  
funnel

vortex  
surface

The weather has many sides, sometimes cool, sometimes hot, sometimes pleasant, and occasionally extreme, creating thunderstorms, cyclones, floods, etc. One of the most extreme, brutal, and potent forms of weather is the \_\_\_\_\_. Tornadoes, also called \_\_\_\_\_, are rapidly rotating columns of air that reach from a storm cloud to the earth's \_\_\_\_\_. When tornadoes are formed, they are a brutal force to be reckoned with that can tear apart everything that comes along its way, causing massive \_\_\_\_\_ to the surroundings.

Because tornadoes are so dangerous, scientists have shown a keen interest in them. The formation of tornadoes is so \_\_\_\_\_ that scientists still don't completely understand it. Conditions that give rise to one tornado are not always responsible for forming another one. We know so far that tornadoes are \_\_\_\_\_ under powerful and big thunderstorms called \_\_\_\_\_. Sometimes they start to develop but don't touch the ground. These are called \_\_\_\_\_ clouds.

When cold, dry air moving from one direction meets warm moist air coming from another \_\_\_\_\_, it creates instability in the atmosphere. As the cold air is dense or heavier, it slides down under the warm air and pushes it upwards very fast. The faster-moving air begins to spin and roll over the slower wind creating an invisible, horizontal spinning effect like a cylinder in the lower \_\_\_\_\_. As the winds continue to build up, more powerful warm air forces the spinning winds vertically upward, causing an updraft.

With an increase in momentum and speed, the spinning winds create a \_\_\_\_\_. Now, the wind has enough energy to fuel itself and eventually keeps going to form a funnel cloud. When the pointed part of the funnel cloud \_\_\_\_\_ the earth's surface, it is often referred to as a touch \_\_\_\_\_. Now it is a tornado

and goes along the ground destroying everything in its path. Tornadoes are rated on the Enhanced  
\_\_\_\_\_ scale. EF0-EF5, with EF5 being the strongest.