

Name: _____

A Dangerous Alley

By Olivia Mendoza

An alley is a narrow path between two things. Often the path is between buildings. Sometimes the path is between fences, trees, or bushes. Did you know the whole United States has an alley? It does. It also comes with a lot of danger.



tornadoes form is called Tornado



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speeds less than 100 miles per hour (180 kilometers per hour), with the slowest ones being only 40 mph (64 km/h). Many are less than 250 feet (76 meters) wide. The strongest ones can be more than 300 mph (480 km/h) and more than 2 miles (3 kilometers) wide. They cause millions of dollars in damage each year. They also take dozens or hundreds of lives.

Tornadoes can form anywhere. The place where most strong

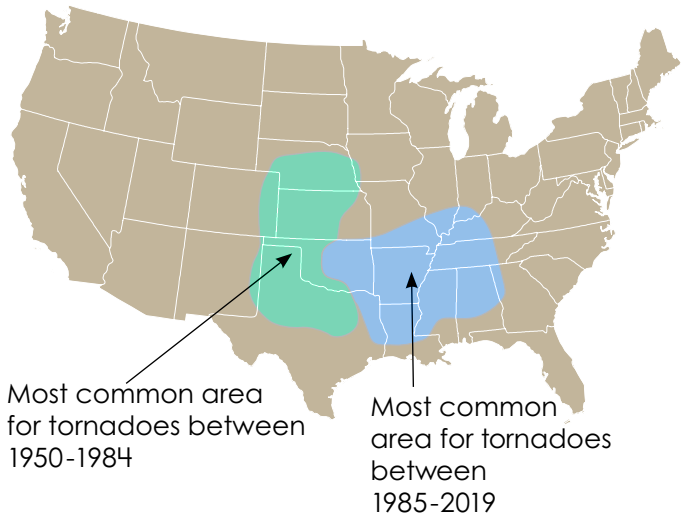
mostly hot, flat land is perfect for tornadoes to form and travel.

Tornado Alley mostly follows an invisible line. The line starts near the U.S.-Mexico border and goes north into Canada. West of the line is drier air. East of the line is wetter air. It's not an official area with start and end spots. Still, big parts of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Iowa are always included in Tornado Alley. The first-ever official tornado

Name: _____

warning was given in 1948 in Oklahoma City!

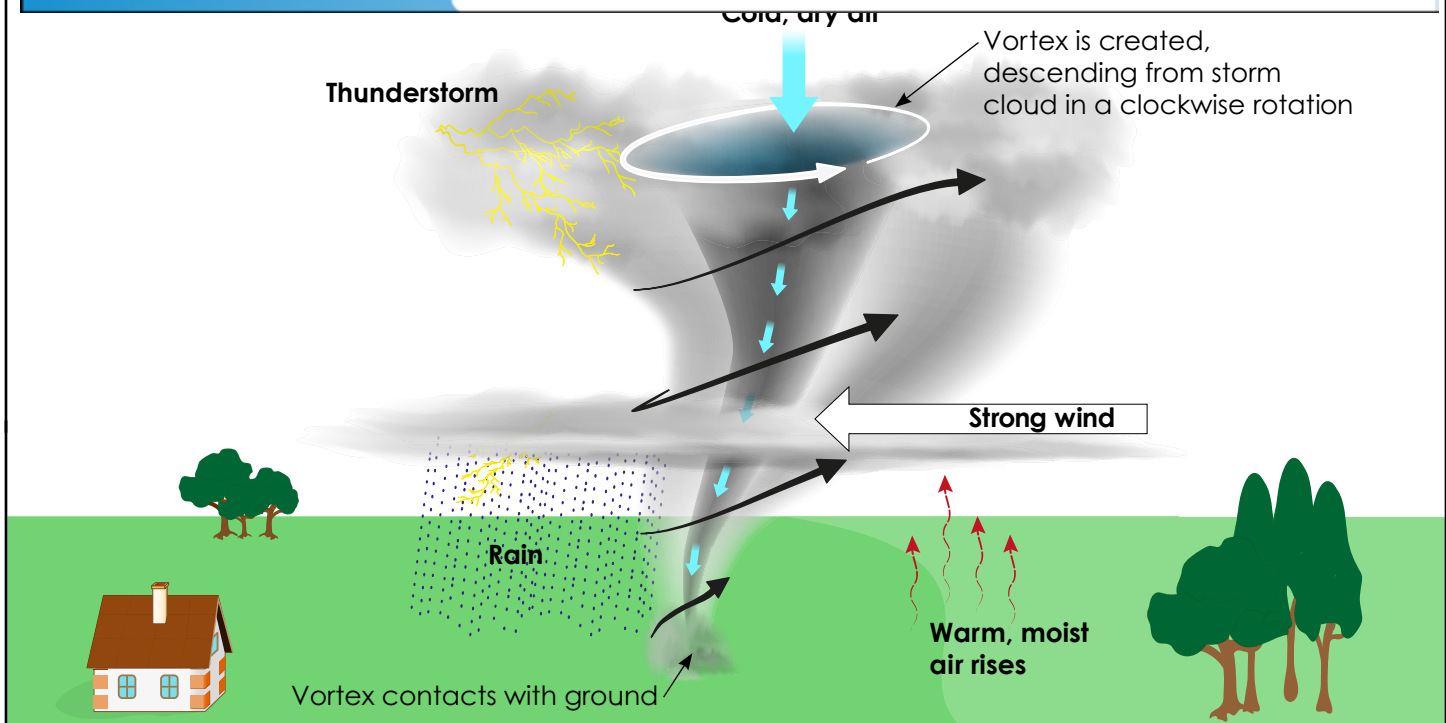
The wet-dry line moves back and forth as the seasons change. That means tornado season isn't the same everywhere. In Oklahoma, it can peak in May. In Iowa or Minnesota, it can peak in June and July. In recent years the line has also moved farther north and east. Places like Michigan and Mississippi have seen more tornadoes—and stronger ones



more used to tornadoes. But many states to the east and north have fewer or no shelters. They also

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1. Circle the correct general direction of air movement in a forming Tornado Alley tornado.

Warm & Moist: up / down east / west

Cool & Dry: up / down east / west

2. Which of the following is *true* about Tornado Alley?

- a. It's the only place deadly tornadoes form.
- b. Kansas is always considered part of it.
- c. It has defined state and country borders.
- d. Its strongest tornadoes always form in summer.



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What can you infer about tornadoes and tornado alley?

5. What important tornado-related event happened in 1948? Where?

6. Do you think "alley" is an accurate name for the area? Why or why not? Use information from the article to support your answers.

Name: _____

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The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the article. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.

1. _____ o c m u l n
clue: an upright, cylinder-like form

2. _____ r o b r e d
clue: the end or edge of something



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6. _____ f o f c i l i a
clue: formal; done by someone with authority

7. _____ g l o n m i t e
clue: having experienced something for a while

8. _____ a r n w o r
clue: thin; much longer than wide

9. _____ a d a m e g
clue: harm, hurt, or injury

10. _____ t o m i s
clue: a bit wet

Name: _____

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In the article, "A Dangerous Alley," you read about Tornado Alley. You learned it is slowly moving farther north and east.

With an adult's permission, use the internet to look up official tornado safety tips from the National Weather Service. Summarize the tips as if you were telling a friend who hasn't experienced a tornado yet. Include some ways to prepare for a tornado and to stay safe during one.



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ANSWER KEY

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Warm & Moist:

up / down

east / west

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6. Do you think "alley" is an accurate name for the area? Why or why not? Use information from the article to support your answers.

Answers will vary. Examples are: Yes, because it's flat land filling the space

between two mountain ranges. // No, because it's hundreds of miles wide,

which isn't narrow.

ANSWER KEY

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clue: a bit wet