



*Welcome to*  
**THE PROTOTYPE PLAINS**

# USEFUL PROPERTIES IN THE OBJECT PROTOTYPE

We've seen a few properties inherited from the Object.prototype...let's test a few more.

```
var x = 4;  
var y = "4";
```

```
x.valueOf();
```

→ 4

```
y.valueOf();
```

→ "4"

The "value" in `valueOf()` isn't looking for numbers necessarily, but instead returns whatever primitive type is associated with the object.

```
x.valueOf() == y.valueOf();
```



→ true

Be careful! The `==` tries to help us out by using "type coercion," which turns a number contained within a string into an actual number. Here, the "4" we got back from `y.valueOf()` became 4 when the `==` examined it.

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```

→ 4

```
y.valueOf();
```

→ "4"

The "value" in `valueOf()` isn't looking for numbers necessarily, but instead returns whatever primitive type is associated with the object.

```
x.valueOf() == y.valueOf();
```

→ true



```
x.valueOf() === y.valueOf();
```



→ false



The `====` operator does NOT ignore the type of the value, and gives us a more detailed interpretation of equality. JavaScript experts often prefer this comparator exclusively over `==` for this reason.

# USEFUL PROPERTIES IN THE OBJECT PROTOTYPE

We've seen a few properties inherited from the Object.prototype...let's test a few more.

```
var x = 4;  
var y = "4";
```

```
var a = [ 3, "blind", "mice" ];
```

```
var b = new Number(6);
```

```
x.valueOf();
```

→ 4

```
a.valueOf();
```

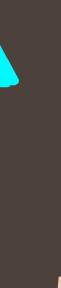
→ [ 3, "blind", "mice" ]

```
y.valueOf();
```

→ "4"

```
b.valueOf();
```

→ 6



Most `valueOf()` calls, when called on ordinary JS types, will not produce anything different than you might expect when just logging out the Object. Don't worry, it gets more interesting...

# VALUEOF() ON CUSTOM OBJECTS

What happens when we call valueOf( ) on an object we make ourselves?

```
var Tornado = function (category, affectedAreas, windGust) {  
    this.category = category;  
    this.affectedAreas = affectedAreas;  
    this.windGust = windGust;  
};
```

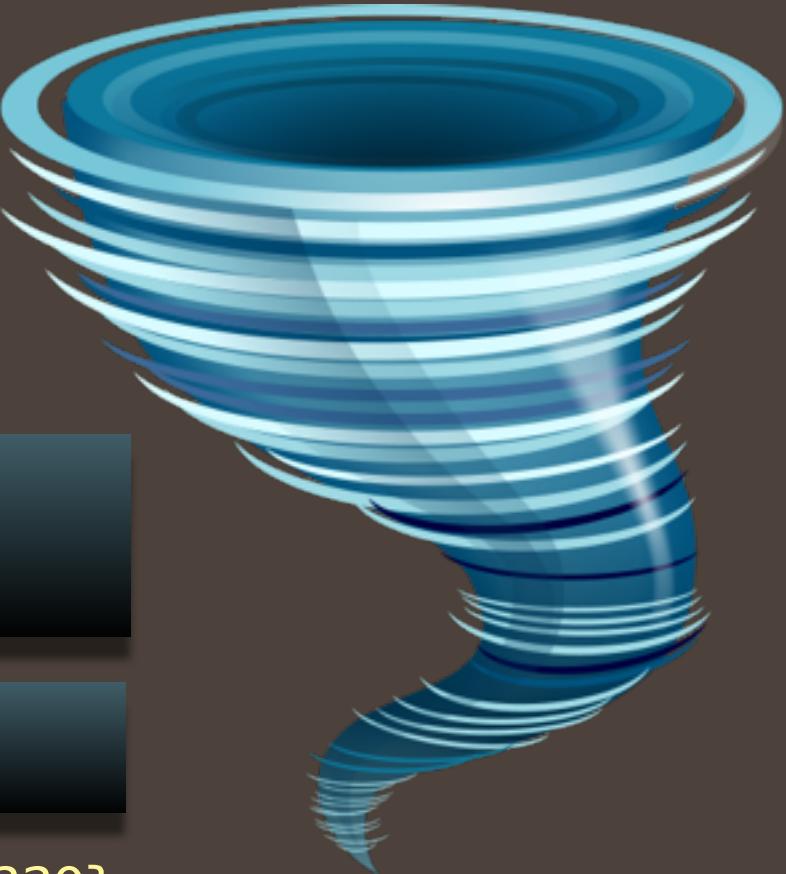
Constructors can be function expressions, too!

```
var cities = [ ["Kansas City", 464310], ["Topeka", 127939], ["Lenexa", 49398] ];  
var twister = new Tornado( "F5", cities, 220 );
```

```
twister.valueOf();
```

→ Tornado {category: "F5", affectedAreas: Array[3], windGust: 220}

The `valueOf()` function for custom Objects just defaults to a list of their properties, just like logging them out.



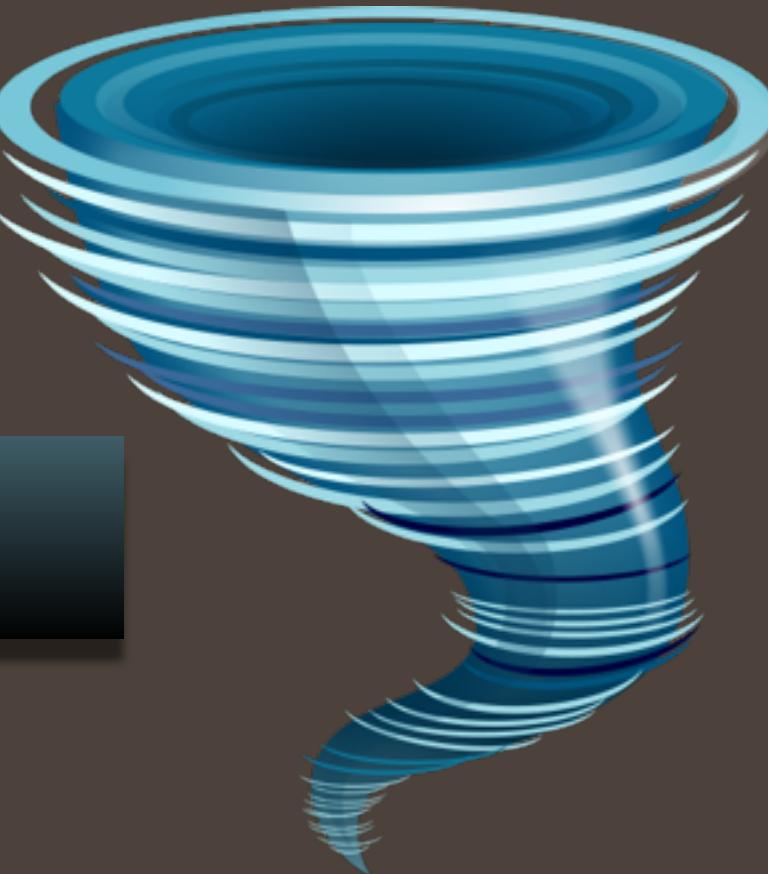
# OVERRIDING PROTOTYPAL PROPERTIES

Many situations require special functionality that's different from the first available property

```
var Tornado = function (category, affectedAreas, windGust) {  
    this.category = category;  
    this.affectedAreas = affectedAreas;  
    this.windGust = windGust;  
};
```

```
var cities = [ ["Kansas City", 464310], ["Topeka", 127939], ["Lenexa", 49398] ];  
var twister = new Tornado( "F5", cities, 220 );
```

```
Tornado.prototype.valueOf = function() {  
    var sum = 0;  
    for (var i = 0; i < this.affectedAreas.length; i++) {  
        sum += this.affectedAreas[i][1];  
    }  
    return sum;  
};
```



When overriding the property, we want to modify the Tornado prototype rather than the Object prototype! We only want to change `valueOf()` for Tornado's, not all Objects!

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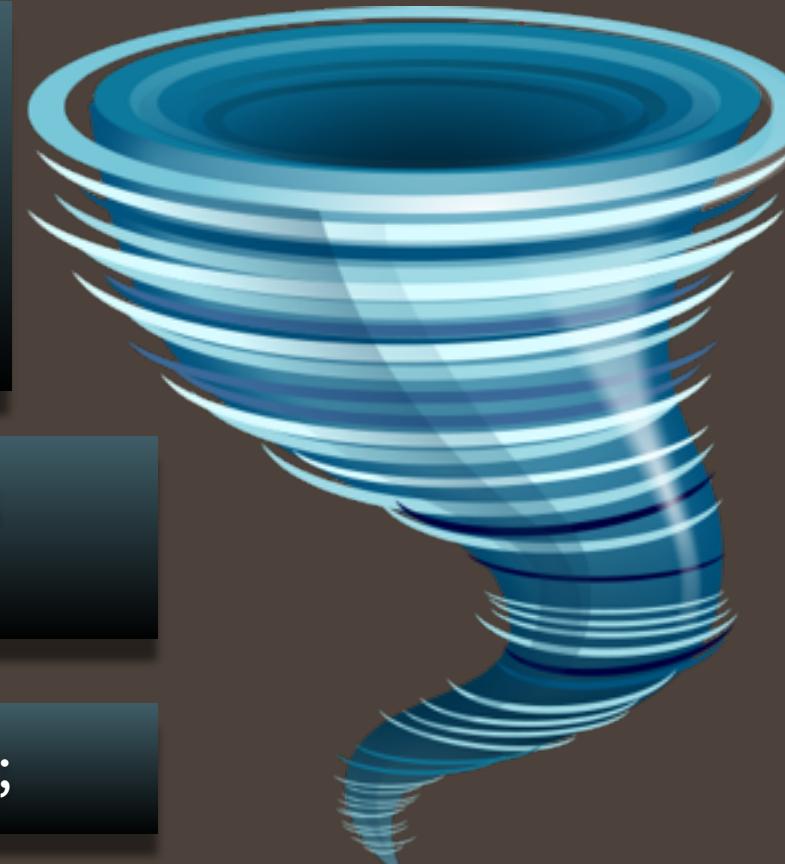
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var Tornado = function (category, affectedAreas, windGust) {  
    this.category = category;  
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};
```

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Tornado.prototype.valueOf = function() {  
    var sum = 0;  
    for (var i = 0; i < this.affectedAreas.length; i++) {  
        sum += this.affectedAreas[i][1];  
    }  
    return sum;  
};
```

twister.valueOf();

→ 641647



This `valueOf` is found in the `Tornado` prototype, which comes before the `Object` prototype in the chain. Thus, the `Object` prototype's `valueOf` has been effectively overridden, since it will never be found in the search.

# OUR VALUE WILL EVEN UPDATE AS CITIES UPDATES

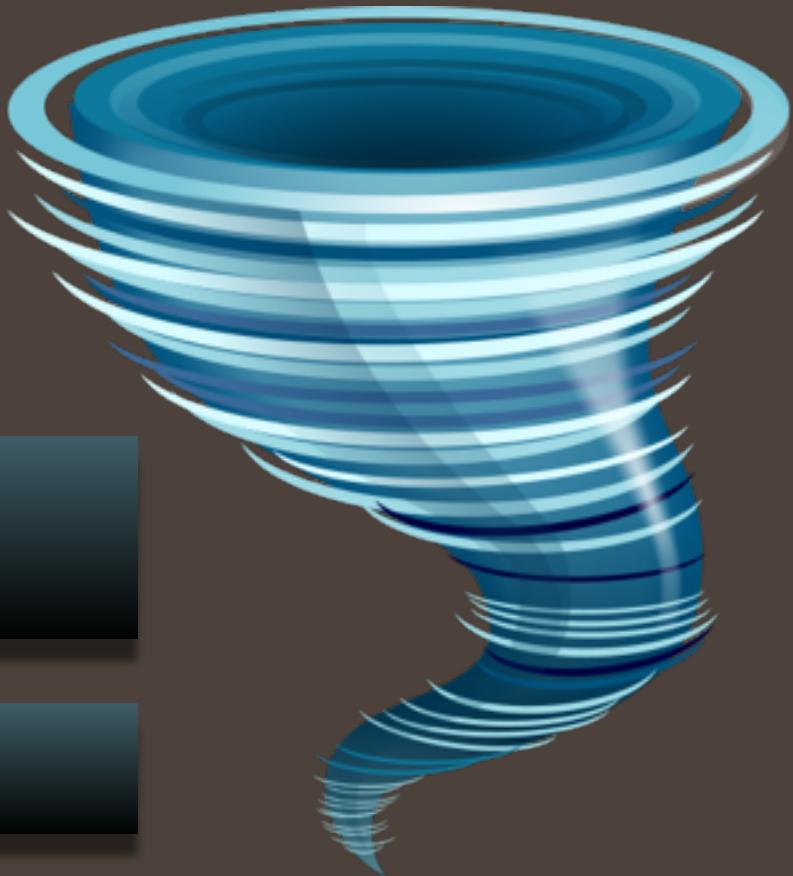
Each Tornado's 'affectedAreas' property can be updated outside the object with no loss of accuracy.

```
var Tornado = function (category, affectedAreas, windGust) {  
    this.category = category;  
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var cities = [ ["Kansas City", 464310], ["Topeka", 127939], ["Lenexa", 49398] ];  
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    }  
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};
```

```
twister.valueOf();
```



# OUR VALUE WILL EVEN UPDATE AS CITIES UPDATES

Each Tornado's 'affectedAreas' property can be updated outside the object with no loss of accuracy.

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    this.category = category;  
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};
```

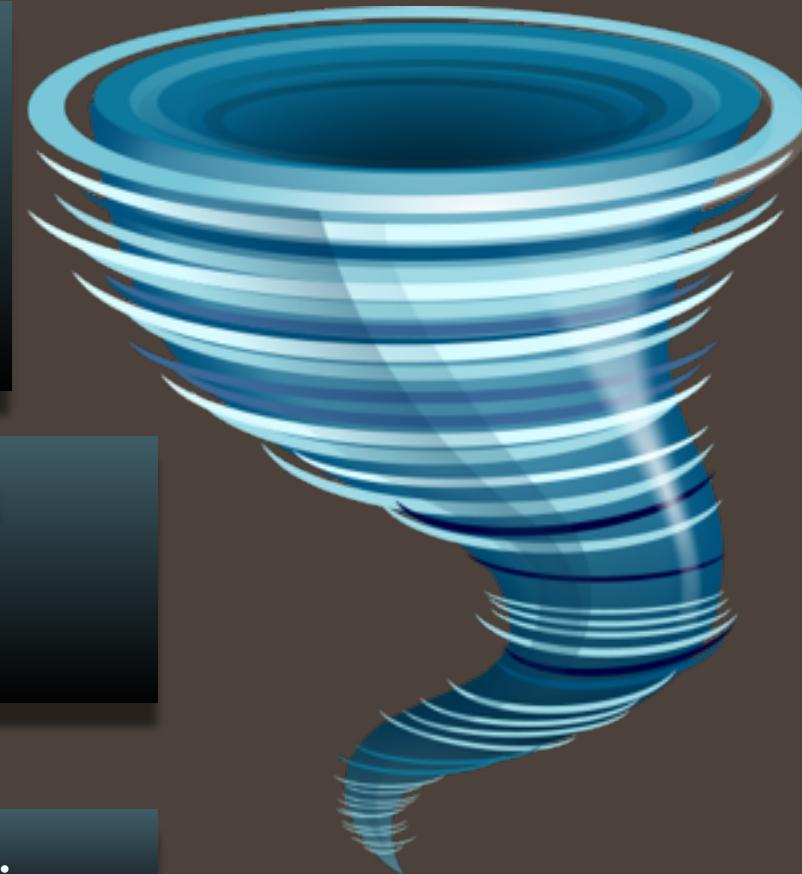
```
var cities = [ ["Kansas City", 464310], ["Topeka", 127939], ["Lenexa", 49398] ];  
var twister = new Tornado( "F5", cities, 220 );  
cities.push( ["Olathe", 130045] );
```

```
Tornado.prototype.valueOf = function() {  
    var sum = 0;  
    for (var i = 0; i < this.affectedAreas.length; i++) {  
        sum += this.affectedAreas[i][1];  
    }  
    return sum;  
};
```

```
twister.valueOf();
```

→ 771692

Since the `cities` array was passed by reference, we'll get an updated value each time an affected area is added to the list.



# ANOTHER USEFUL PROTOTYPAL PROPERTY IS `TOSTRING()`

Default responses for Object's `toString` method are often uninteresting...but overriding it is cool!

```
var x = 4;  
var y = "4";
```

```
var a = [ 3, "blind", "mice" ];
```

`x.toString();`

→ "4"

`y.toString();`

→ "4"

`a.toString();`

→ "3,blind,mice"



A call to `toString` on an Array will just string-ify and concatenate all the contents, separating each entry by a comma without any whitespace. Overriding `toString` in the Array prototype is often desirable.

# ANOTHER USEFUL PROTOTYPAL PROPERTY IS **TOSTRING()**

Default responses for Object's `toString` method are often uninteresting...but overriding it is cool!

```
var x = 4;  
var y = "4";
```

`x.toString();`

→ "4"

```
var a = [ 3, "blind", "mice" ];
```

`a.toString();`

→ "3,blind,mice"

`y.toString();`

→ "4"

```
var double = function ( param ){  
    return param *2;  
};
```

`double.toString();`

→ "function ( param ){  
 return param \*2;  
}"



`toString` on a function can be pretty cool, if you ever need to concatenate a function into a formatted printout.

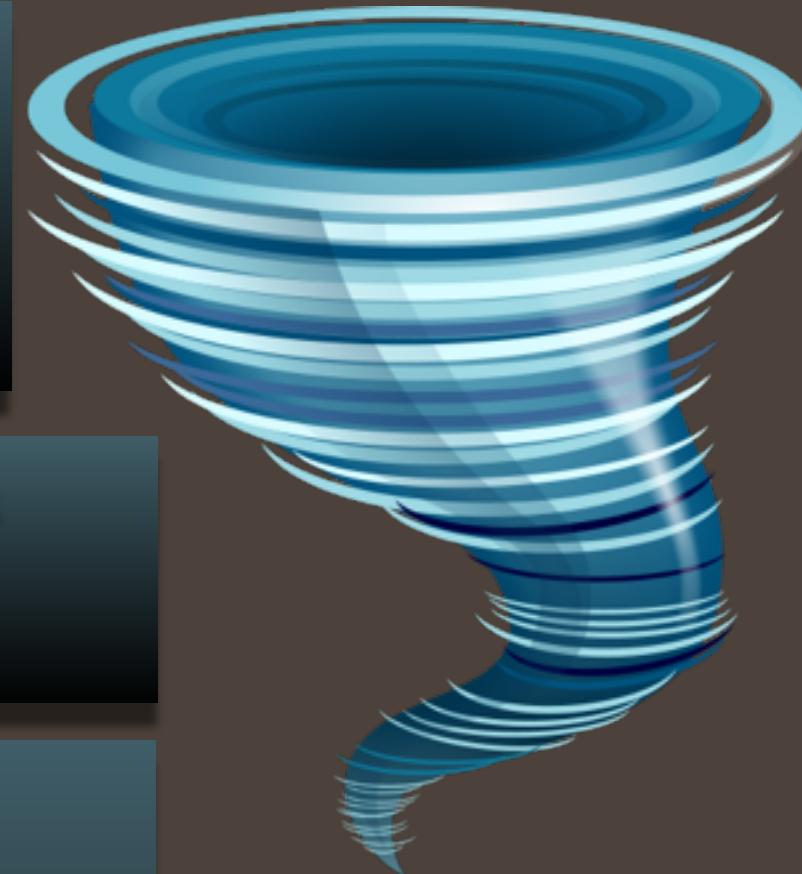
# LET'S OVERRIDE `TOSTRING()` IN OUR `TORNADO` PROTOTYPE

We want a good representation of the data to come back when we call `toString()` on a Tornado Object

```
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    this.category = category;  
    this.affectedAreas = affectedAreas;  
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}
```

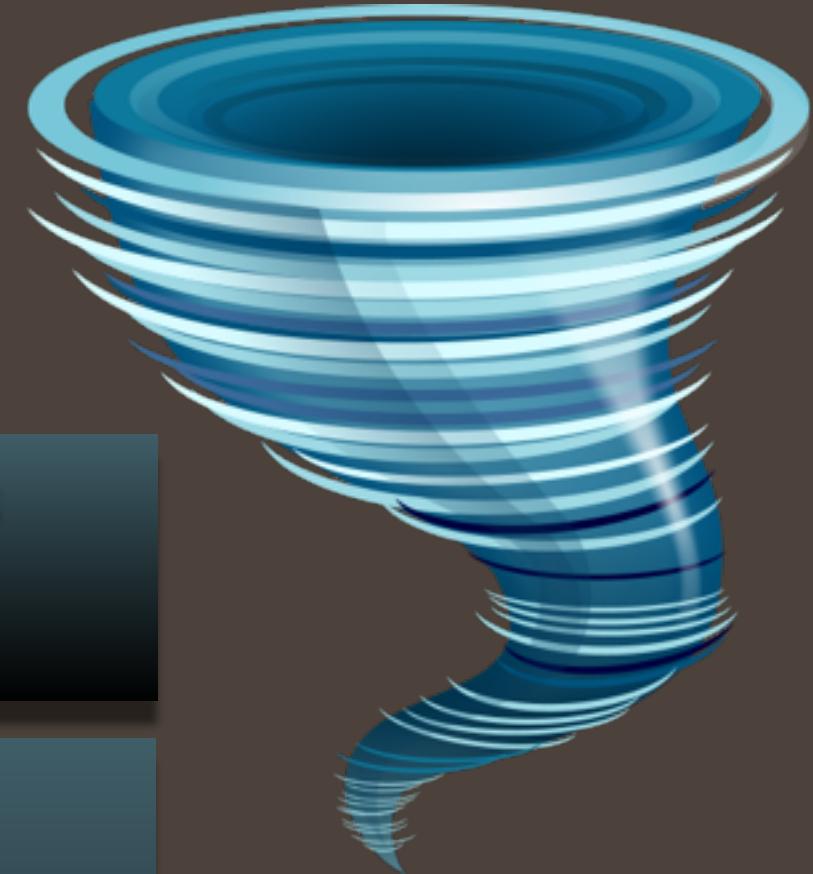
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var twister = new Tornado( "F5", cities, 220 );  
cities.push( ["Olathe", 130045] );
```

```
Tornado.prototype.toString = function( ) {  
    var list = "";  
    for (var i = 0; i < this.affectedAreas.length; i++) {  
        if (i < this.affectedAreas.length - 1) {  
            list = list + this.affectedAreas[i][0] + ", ";  
        } else {  
            list = list + "and " + this.affectedAreas[i][0]; }  
    }  
    return "This tornado has been classified as an " + this.category +  
        ", with wind gusts up to " + this.windGust + "mph. Affected areas are: " +  
        list + ", potentially affecting a population of " + this.valueOf() + ".";  
}
```



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        ", with wind gusts up to " + this.windGust + "mph. Affected areas are: " +
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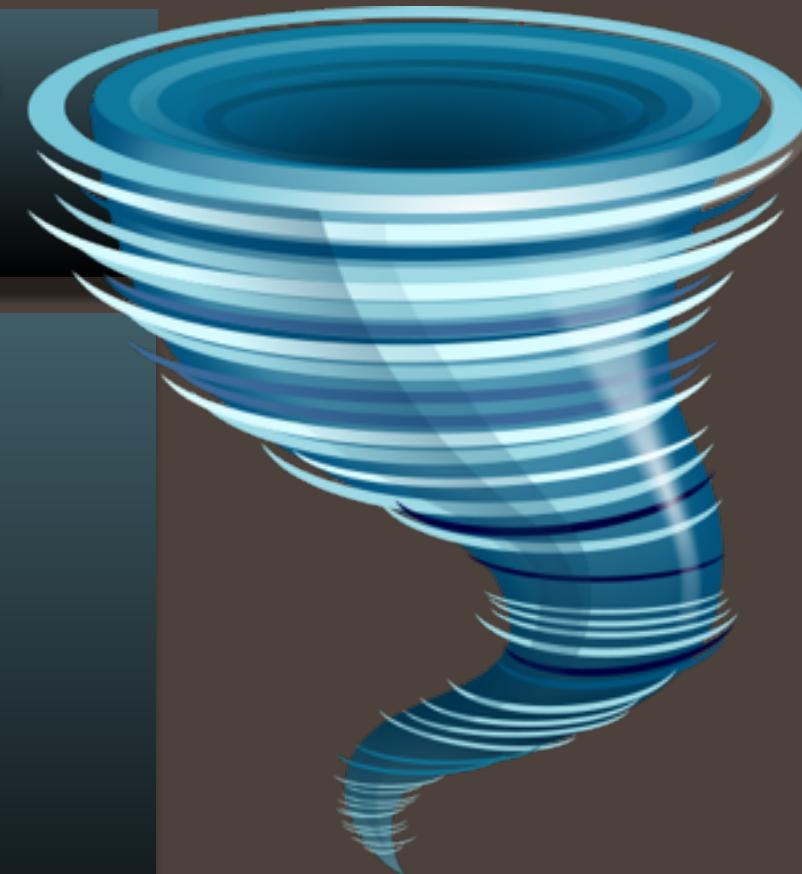
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        }  
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        ", with wind gusts up to " + this.windGust + "mph. Affected areas are: " +  
        list + ", potentially affecting a population of " + this.valueOf() + ".  
}
```

```
twister.toString();
```

→ "This tornado has been classified as an F5, with  
wind gusts up to 220mph. Affected areas are:  
Kansas City, Topeka, Lenexa, and Olathe,  
potentially affecting a population of 771692."



# FINDING AN OBJECT'S CONSTRUCTOR AND PROTOTYPE

Some inherited properties provide ways to find an Object's nearest prototype ancestor

```
var cities = [ ["Kansas City", 464310], ["Topeka", 127939], ["Lenexa", 49398] ];  
var twister = new Tornado( "F5", cities, 220 );  
cities.push( ["Olathe", 130045] );
```

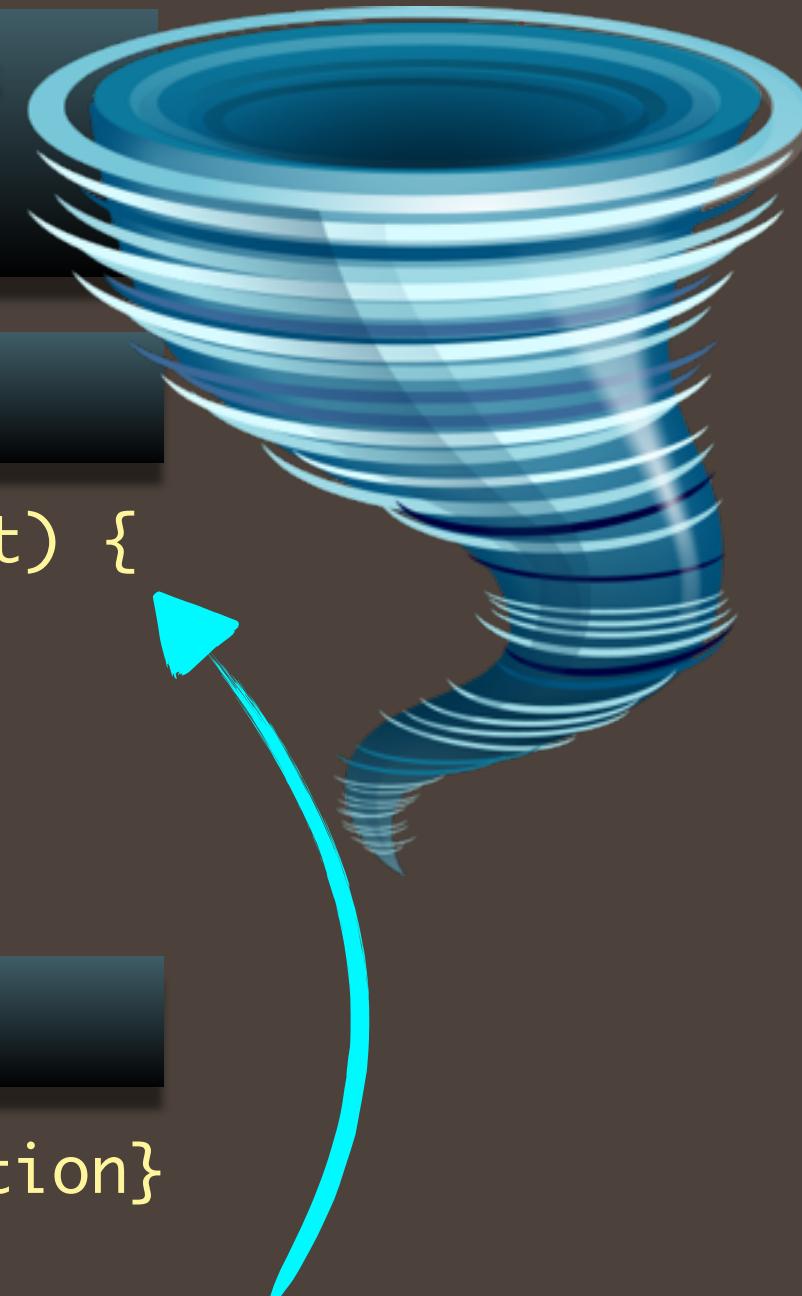
```
twister.constructor;
```

```
→ function (category, affectedAreas, windGust) {  
    this.category = category;  
    this.affectedAreas = affectedAreas;  
    this.windGust = windGust;  
}
```

```
twister.constructor.prototype;
```

```
→ Object {valueOf: function, toString: function}
```

Remember that if a prototype Object is defined for a specific class, it will always be a property of the class's constructor, which is just another function Object.



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cities.push( ["Olathe", 130045] );
```

```
twister.constructor;
```

→ function (category, affectedAreas, windGust) {  
 this.category = category;  
 this.affectedAreas = affectedAreas;  
 this.windGust = windGust;  
}

```
twister.constructor.prototype;
```

→ Object {valueOf: function, toString: function}

```
twister.__proto__;
```

→ Object {valueOf: function, toString: function}



# HASOWNPROPERTY() HELPS IDENTIFY PROPERTY LOCATION

Searching prototype chains for potential overridden properties becomes easy with this function

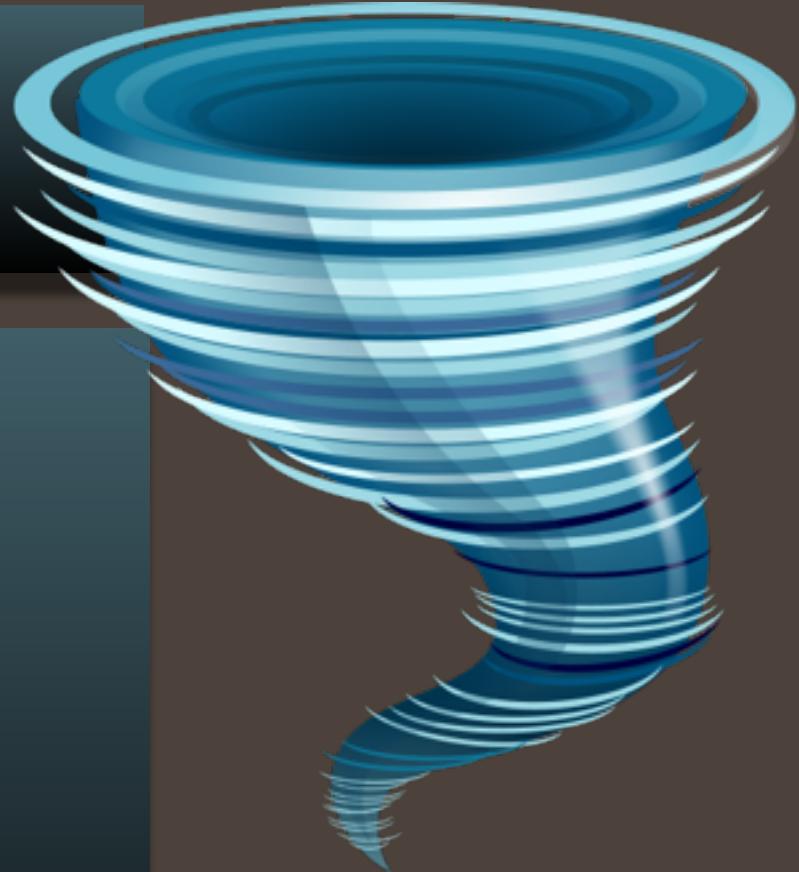
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cities.push( ["Olathe", 130045] );
```

```
Object.prototype.findOwnerOfProperty = function ( propName ) {
```



We'll build the function directly on the  
Object prototype so that every object  
we ever make can use the function!

```
};
```



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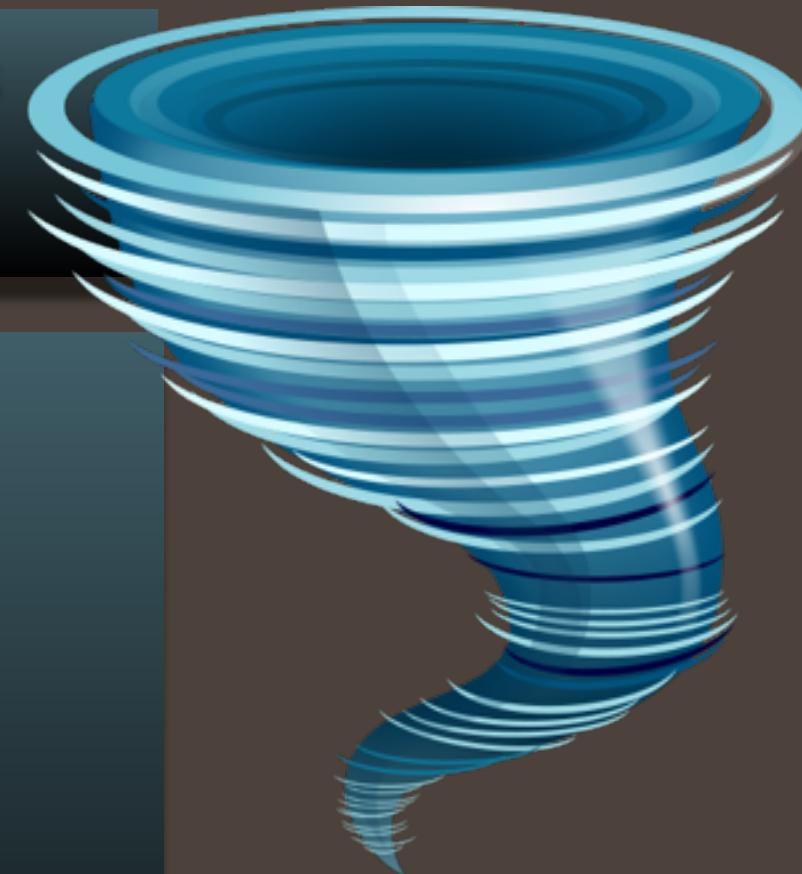
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```

```
Object.prototype.findOwnerOfProperty = function ( propName ) {  
    var currentObject = this;  
};
```



We'll start off looking for the property  
within the caller Object itself.



# HASOWNPROPERTY() HELPS IDENTIFY PROPERTY LOCATION

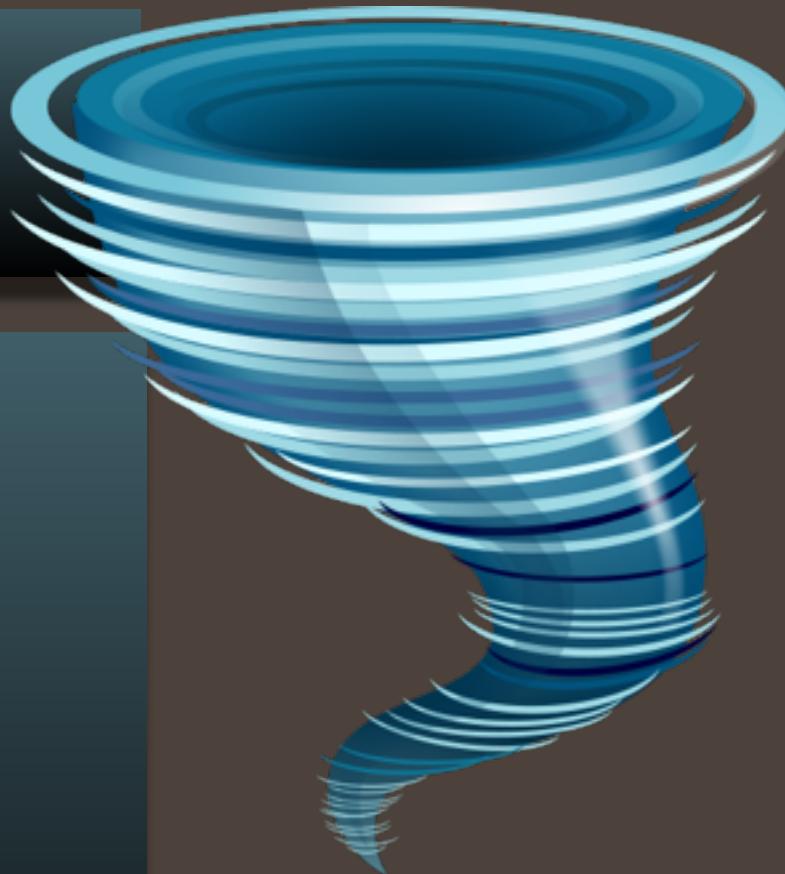
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cities.push( ["Olathe", 130045] );
```

```
Object.prototype.findOwnerOfProperty = function ( propName ) {  
    var currentObject = this;  
    while (currentObject !== null){  
        }  
    };
```



We'll keep searching the prototype chain until we've tried to go beyond the Object prototype...which has no prototype. Trying to access it would produce `null`.



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cities.push( ["Olathe", 130045] );
```

```
Object.prototype.findOwnerOfProperty = function ( propName ) {  
    var currentObject = this;  
    while (currentObject !== null){  
        if (currentObject.hasOwnProperty(propName)) {  
            return currentObject;  
        }  
    }  
};
```



If the currently examined Object has the property, success! Return that Object.



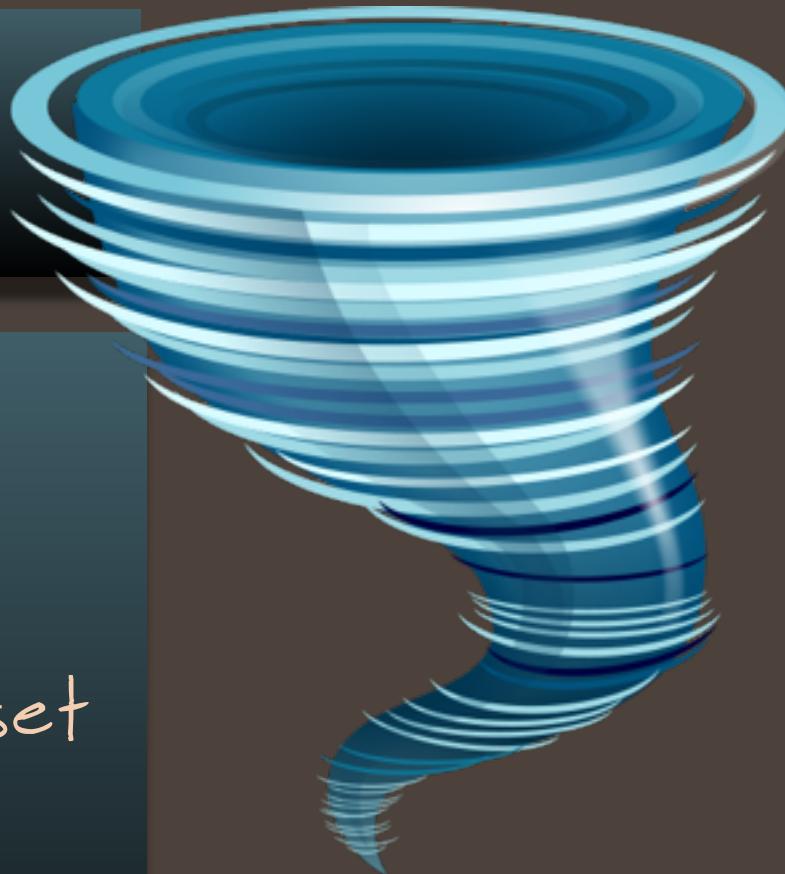
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Object.prototype.findOwnerOfProperty = function ( propName ) {  
    var currentObject = this;  
    while (currentObject !== null){  
        if (currentObject.hasOwnProperty(propName)) {  
            return currentObject;  
        }  
        else {  
            currentObject = currentObject.__proto__;  
        }  
    }  
};
```

Otherwise, we set  
the currently  
examined Object to  
be the previously  
examined Object's  
prototype.



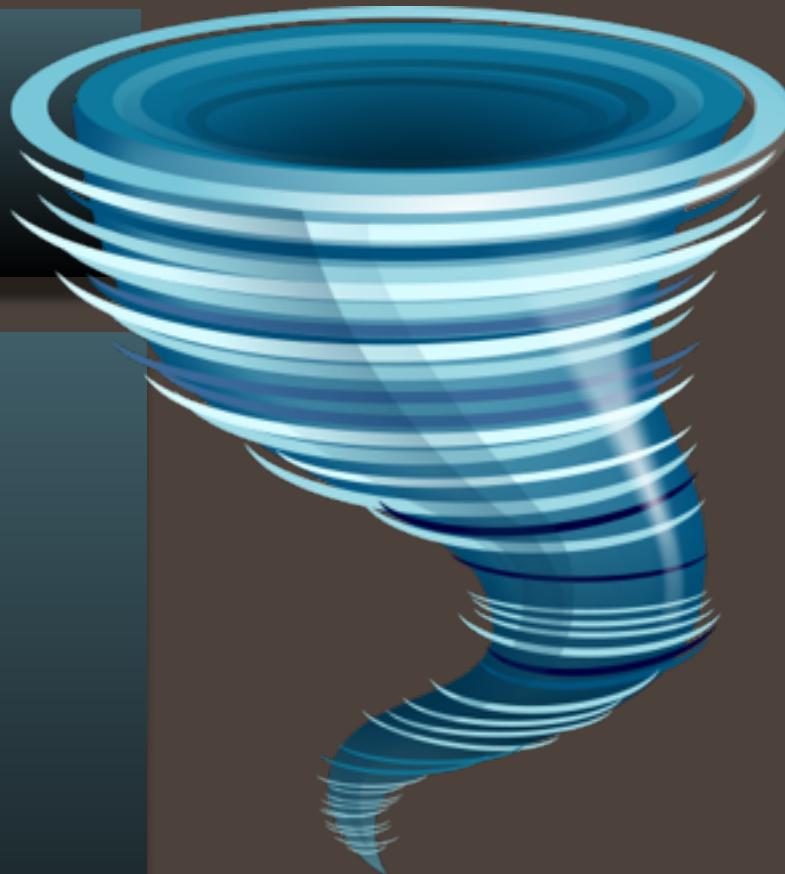
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            return currentObject;  
        }  
        else {  
            currentObject = currentObject.__proto__;  
        }  
    }  
    return "No property found!"; ←  
};
```

If the while loop exits, we know we  
didn't find the property, and should  
probably let ourselves know, right?

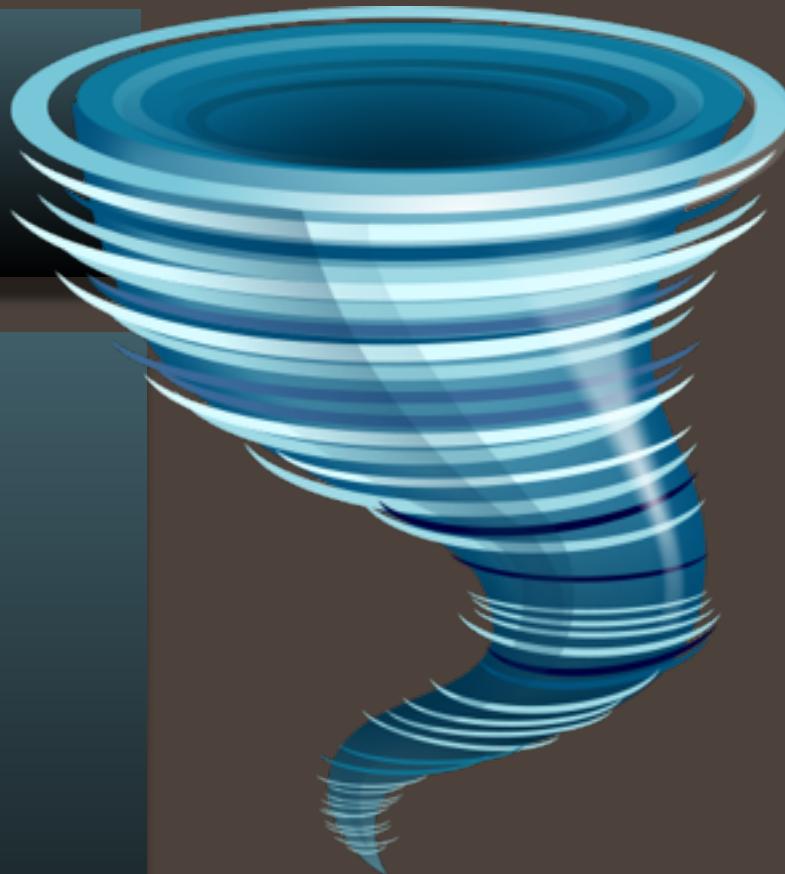


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    var currentObject = this;  
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        if (currentObject.hasOwnProperty(propName)) {  
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        }  
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            currentObject = currentObject.__proto__;  
        }  
    }  
    return "No property found!";  
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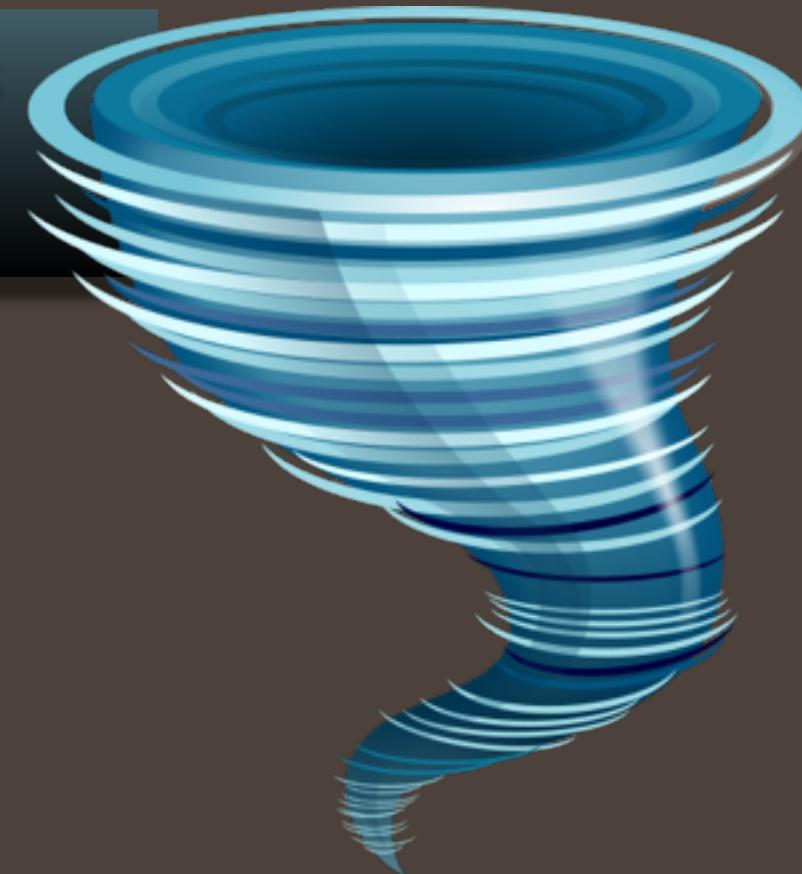
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        }  
        else {  
            currentObject = currentObject.__proto__;  
        }  
    }  
    return "No property found!";  
};
```



→ Object {valueOf: function, toString: function}



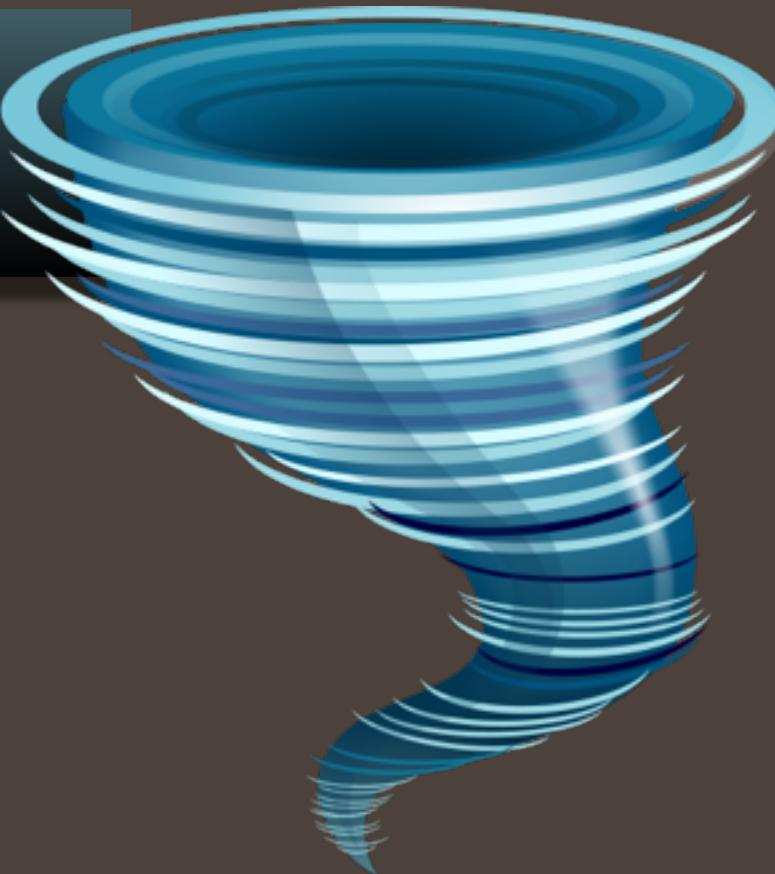
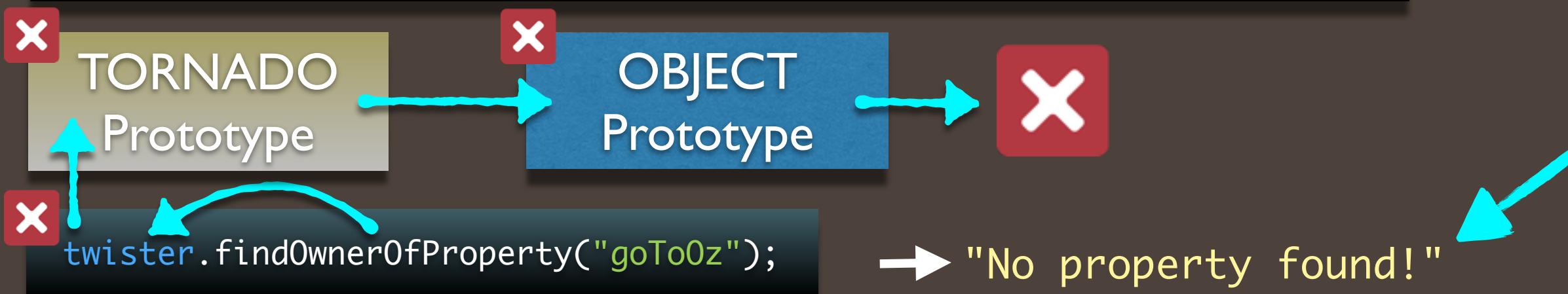
Searching for the `valueOf()` to which `twister` has access reveals the `Tornado` prototype as the owner. Thanks, `hasOwnProperty()`!

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        }  
        else {  
            currentObject = currentObject.__proto__;  
        }  
    }  
    return "No property found!";  
};
```



Trying to find the `goTo0z` property reveals that none exists for this Tornado. Which sort of sucks.



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