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Introduction

What do you think of when you hear the word storm? Do you think of booms of thunder? Do you think of pouring rain? Storms can be dangerous. Knowing about the dangers can help you stay safe.

Thunder and Lightning

A thunderstorm has strong winds and heavy rain. It has lightning and, of course, thunder. Sometimes so much rain falls that it causes floods. Sometimes a storm



has a lot of lightning. Lightning can hurt or kill people.

▸ No matter where you live, you have probably seen a thunderstorm. They happen in most places on Earth. In fact, right now, about 2,000 thunderstorms are going on in places around the world!



▸ Thunderstorm Safety

▸ 1. What to Do 😊

- Go inside a strong building right away.
- If you can not get into a building, get into a car or crouch down as low as you can.

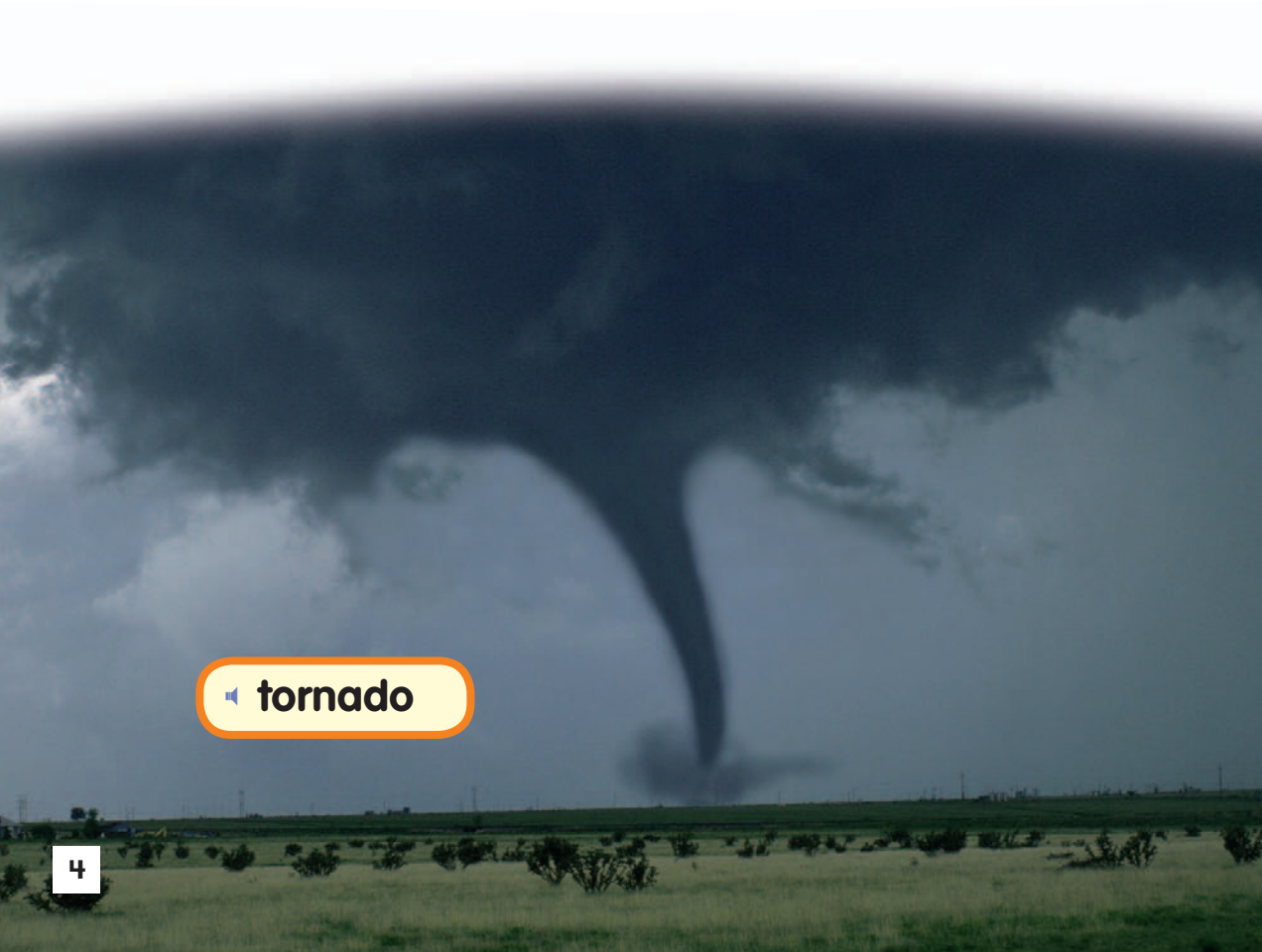
▸ 2. What Not to Do 🚫

- Do not go under a tree.
- Do not use electric appliances.
- Do not talk on a phone that has a cord.
- Do not take a shower or a bath.
- Do not touch metal objects such as fences or flagpoles.

▶ **Twisting Air**

Did you ever see a movie of a tornado? If so, you know how scary a tornado can be!

▶ A tornado can come out of a very strong thunderstorm. A tornado forms between the clouds and the ground. It has very strong winds. It can lift up cars and knock down houses.



▶ **tornado**

▶ When a tornado forms, meteorologists send out a warning by TV or radio. A meteorologist is a scientist who studies weather.

▶ The United States gets about 1,000 tornadoes every year. That's more than any other place on Earth!



▶ **Tornado Safety**

▶ 1. What to Do 😊

- Go inside a strong building right away.
- Go to the basement. If there is no basement, go to the lowest floor. Stay in a closet or hallway. Stay away from outside walls and windows.
- If you can not get inside, lie flat in a ditch or low area.

▶ 2. What Not to Do 🚫

- Do not stay in a car or a mobile home. Go inside a strong building instead.
- Do not stay in a large, open room.
- Do not open windows. Take cover instead.
- Do not go near windows and doors.

▶ Name that Storm

What kind of storm can you call Hugo or Hazel? A hurricane! To help keep track of hurricanes, meteorologists give them names. Hurricanes are huge storms. A hurricane can be more than 300 miles wide. It has very strong winds and brings heavy rain.



▶ hurricane

▶ Large, slow hurricanes take a long time to pass. This means that a hurricane can rain on one place for many hours. So much rain can cause floods.

▶ A hurricane's strong winds can push ocean waves onto land. This also causes floods. The strong winds and floods can destroy homes and kill people.



▶ Hurricane Safety

▶ 1. What to Do 😊

- Go as far away from the ocean as you can.
- Go indoors to a basement, closet, or hallway. Stay away from windows and doors.
- Listen to a portable radio or TV. Do what the meteorologists tell you to do.
- If you are told to leave your home, go to a strong building or a shelter. Tell someone outside the storm area where you are going.

▶ 2. What Not to Do 🚫

- Do not stay in a mobile home. Go inside a strong building.
- Do not go near flooded places.
- Do not go outside until it is safe.

Take Action Now


The best way to stay safe is to plan before a storm comes. Talk to your friends. Talk to your family. Tell them what you have learned.

Before a hurricane comes, plan how you and your family will leave the area. Plan where you will go. Have supplies ready. Make sure that you have flashlights, extra batteries, a radio, a first aid kit, food, and water.

Be prepared!



▶ **Think and Respond**

- ▶ 1. What should you do if a storm is coming?
- ▶ 2. What are some types of storms?
- ▶ 3. Why should you keep a portable radio or TV and extra batteries with you during a hurricane?
- ▶  4. **Persuasive Writing** Write a story that will persuade your friends to plan for storms. Tell how planning can save lives.

▶ **Hands-On Activity**

Safe Place Draw your home. Where would you go if you heard a tornado warning?

▶ **School-Home Connection**

Plan Ahead Make a plan with your family. Decide where to go if you are at home, at school, outside, or in a car when a storm is on the way.