Sequencing

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

Sequencing *is putting things in order, from first to last.*

Read about how tornadoes form, paying attention to the *sequence* of events, from *first to last*.

While there are many different kinds of storms that happen on Earth, tornadoes are some of the most powerful and the fastest-moving! They all begin thanks to a series of changes that happen in the air.

The process begins when wet, warm air near the ground rises and crosses with dry, cold air that is high in the sky. This tends to occur on hot days. As the cold air sinks and the warm air pushes up quickly, strong winds are formed…and the air begins to spin.

This can form a special type of storm called a supercell. In a supercell, strong winds blow in different directions at all different heights. These winds can create a sideways tube of spinning air. If that tube shifts into a standing position, it can form a cloud that looks like a funnel that hangs down from the storm.

Once this happens, the winds of the storm cause the funnel cloud to stretch and tighten. When this occurs, it begins to spin faster and faster. It becomes a tornado the moment it touches the ground.

Weather scientists use radar and satellites to watch for tornadoes. Tornadoes move extremely quickly and can create a lot of damage. Some last for a very short amount of time, while others travel for miles. Meteorologists send out alerts as soon as they see tornado warning signs in order to help keep people safe.

List six steps to help a reader understand the *sequence* of how a tornado forms.

1. _____

_____

2. _____

_____

3. _____

_____

4. _____

_____

5. _____

_____

6. _____

_____

Answers

One possible answer includes:

1. Wet, warm air near the ground rises and crosses with dry, cold air.
2. As the cold air sinks and the warm air pushes up quickly, strong winds are formed.
3. The air begins to spin and forms a supercell.
4. These winds create a sideways tube of spinning air.
5. If the spinning air shifts, it can form a cloud that looks like a funnel hanging down from the storm.
6. It becomes a tornado the moment it touches the ground.