

SEVERE WEATHER

What is severe weather?

Severe weather comes in many forms. You are probably already familiar with a few: hurricanes, typhoons, tornadoes, flooding, and severe cold and hot temperatures. Each year severe weather conditions cause billions of dollars in damage and injure or kill thousands of people. Below is a chart displaying some of the worst severe weather events in the United States.

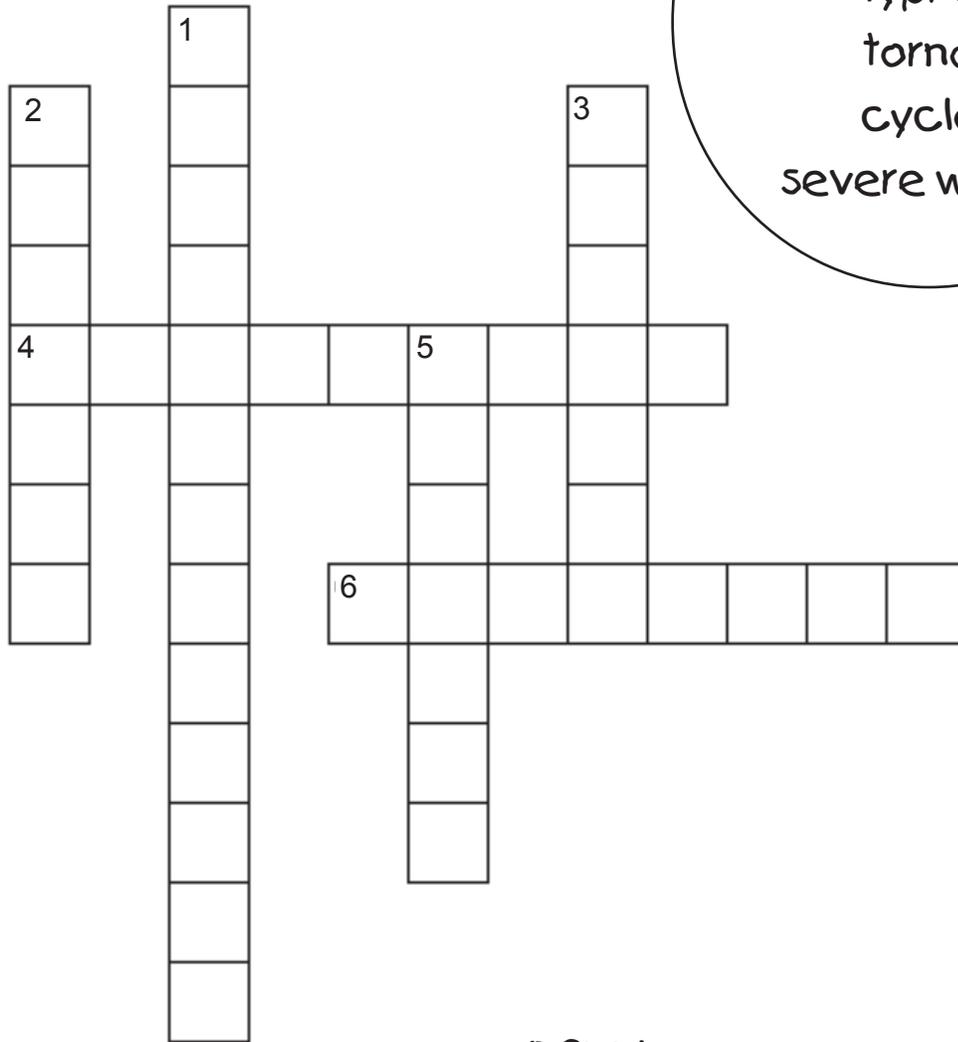
SEVERE WEATHER EVENTS IN THE UNITED STATES

<u>WEATHER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>DAMAGES (\$)</u>	<u>DEATHS</u>
Hurricane Katrina	Gulf States	2006	\$75 billion	1,604
Hurricane Andrew	Florida	1992	\$25 billion	26
Unnamed Hurricane	Florida	1928	n/a	1,800
Unnamed Hurricane	Galveston, Texas	1900	n/a	8,000
Tristate Tornado	Missouri, Illinois, Indiana	1925	n/a	695
Tornado	Mississippi	1840	n/a	317
Ohio Floods	Ohio	1913	\$143 million	467
Missouri/Louisiana Floods	Missouri/Louisiana	1927	\$230 million	n/a

Why do you think the number of deaths in Hurricane Andrew was so much lower than those in the unnamed hurricane of 1900?

Severe Weather Crossword Puzzle

Word Bank
hurricane
flooding
typhoon
tornado
cyclone
severe weather



Use the hints to solve the puzzle.

ACROSS

- 4) Intense low pressure area over warm waters
- 6) Caused by heavy rains

DOWN

- 1) Extreme climate
- 2) Tornado in the northwest Pacific Ocean
- 3) Can have winds up to 250 mph
- 5) Hurricane or typhoon

Severe Weather

WEATHER	DESCRIPTION
Hurricane	Every year hurricanes threaten the eastern and gulf coasts of the United States, Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. Hurricanes usually occur between the months of June and November. This is typically called Hurricane season. Hurricanes are strong tropical cyclones and are caused by intense low pressure areas that form over warm ocean waters. Their source of energy is the water vapor that evaporates from the ocean. Hurricanes usually lose power when they touch land.
Typhoon	A typhoon is a regional name for a tropical cyclone, thus it is similar to a hurricane. The primary difference is that typhoons occur in the northwest Pacific Ocean.
Tornado	Tornadoes can have wind speeds up to 250 mph and are one of the most destructive forces on earth. They frequently occur east of the Rocky Mountains in the spring and summer. They are usually caused by thunder storms which, in turn, develop when cool and warm air masses collide.
Flooding	Flooding is caused by excessive rain. Sometimes flooding occurs when rivers or lakes overflow.

Answer the following questions.

1) What is the cause of a hurricane? _____

2) How is a hurricane similar to a typhoon? _____

3) What is the cause of flooding? _____

4) Where are tornadoes most likely to occur? _____

5) Why do hurricanes lose power when they hit land? _____
