

TORNADO LAB WORKSHEET

A Scale of Their Own

1. What variable does this scale examine in order to rate the intensity of a tornado?

2. What type of damage does an F-6 tornado produce and how many F-6 tornadoes have been recorded? _____
3. Does size really matter? Explain: _____

4. How many tornadoes touchdown in the United States each year? _____
5. When and where in the United States did the deadliest tornado occur? _____
_____ How many fatalities were recorded? _____
6. What is the numerical range of the scale? _____

No Fear, I Live in Arizona

1. Has Arizona ever experienced a tornado? _____

2. Look at the tornado data for Maricopa County. What was the most powerful tornado (F-_____) to strike Maricopa County and when did it occur (time and date)? _____
How many fatalities and injuries resulted from this storm? _____
3. Look at the data for the remaining counties. Which county experienced the greatest number of tornadoes? Which two counties experienced the most powerful tornadoes? Can you generalize about the relative intensity of tornadoes in Arizona (compare Arizona to Oklahoma)? _____

Which comes First: The Watch or the Warning?

1. What is the difference between a tornado watch and a tornado warning? _____

2. Are there any tornado watches or warnings for the United States at this time? _____

3. Is there a tornado watch or tornado warning for Arizona at this time? (Hint: Check www.theweatherchannel.com) If yes, what surface features are near to the area under the watch or warning? (i.e. cold front, warm front, occluded front, stationary front, trough...)

4. Which State has had the MOST tornadoes? _____