

# Severe Weather Webquest Answer Key



## Severe Weather WebQuest

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Per: \_\_\_\_\_

### TASK A – Thunderstorms

#### Part 1: Storms and Thunderstorms Article

Use the link below to read the "16.3 Storms" article on the CK-12 website. Answer the

questions below as you read. Tiny URL: <https://tinyurl.com/y5acoany>

Full URL: <https://www.ck12.org/book/CK-12-Earth-Science-For-Middle-School/section/16.3/>

#### What Are Storms

1. What is a storm? A violent disturbance of the atmosphere with strong winds and usually rain, thunder, lightning, or snow. \_\_\_\_\_
2. True or False: Storms vary in duration, intensity, and size. True \_\_\_\_\_
3. What does the size and strength of a storm depend on? What does the size and strength of a storm depend on? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What two factors produce stronger storms? This heat energy \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Thunderstorms

5. What type of weather can thunderstorms bring? What type of weather can thunderstorms bring? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Where in the U.S. are thunderstorms most common? Where in the U.S. are thunderstorms most common? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Describe in detail how thunderstorms occur. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What type of clouds do updrafts created? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What creates lightning? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Describe what causes the sound of thunder. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Why do we see lightning before we hear thunder? \_\_\_\_\_
12. How do you estimate how far away lightning is to you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Part 2: Thunderstorms 101 Video Tutorial

Use the link below to watch the "Thunderstorms 101" video by National Geographic. Answer the questions below as you watch. Full URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zUNEFefftt8> Tiny URL: <https://tinyurl.com/y48baxaa>

13. How many thunderstorms are occurring at any moment worldwide? \_\_\_\_\_
14. Describe a single-cell thunderstorm. \_\_\_\_\_
15. Describe a multi-cell thunderstorm. \_\_\_\_\_
16. Describe a squall line. \_\_\_\_\_
17. Describe a supercell. \_\_\_\_\_
18. How do thunderstorms form? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
19. How is lightning formed? \_\_\_\_\_
20. What occurs when electrons transfer so quickly that they break the sound barrier? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Part 3: Make a Thunderstorm Interactive

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**Severe Weather Webquest Answer Key** serves as an essential tool for educators and students alike who are eager to understand the intricacies of severe weather phenomena. This type of webquest typically encourages students to explore various aspects of severe weather, including types, causes, impacts, and safety measures. It also provides a structured way to engage with the material through research and critical thinking. In this article, we will delve into the significance of severe weather education, outline common severe weather phenomena, provide answers to typical webquest questions, and discuss teaching strategies that can foster a deeper understanding of this crucial subject.

## Understanding Severe Weather

Severe weather encompasses a range of atmospheric phenomena that can pose significant

threats to life and property. These events are characterized by their intensity and potential for destruction. Understanding severe weather is crucial, not only for safety and preparedness but also for fostering an informed community capable of responding to emergencies.

## **Types of Severe Weather**

There are several types of severe weather, each with unique characteristics. Some of the most common include:

1. **Tornadoes:** Rapidly rotating columns of air that extend from thunderstorms to the ground. They can cause severe destruction in a very short time.
2. **Hurricanes:** Large tropical storms characterized by strong winds and heavy rain, capable of causing flooding and storm surges.
3. **Severe Thunderstorms:** Storms that produce hail, damaging winds, and heavy rain, often leading to flash flooding.
4. **Blizzards:** Severe winter storms with strong winds and low visibility due to blowing snow, creating dangerous travel conditions.
5. **Floods:** Occur when water overflows onto normally dry land, often as a result of heavy rainfall or rapid snowmelt.
6. **Heatwaves:** Extended periods of excessively hot weather, which can lead to health risks and strain on resources.

## **Causes of Severe Weather**

Severe weather is influenced by various atmospheric conditions, including:

- **Temperature Gradients:** Differences in temperature can lead to instability in the atmosphere, resulting in thunderstorms and tornadoes.
- **Moisture:** High humidity levels can contribute to the formation of clouds and precipitation, promoting severe weather events.
- **Topography:** Mountains and valleys can affect wind patterns and precipitation, sometimes exacerbating severe weather conditions.
- **Climate Change:** Long-term changes in climate can increase the frequency and intensity of severe weather events.

## **Severe Weather Webquest Framework**

A webquest on severe weather typically consists of several components designed to engage students in research and collaborative learning. Here is a general framework for conducting a severe weather webquest:

# **1. Introduction**

- Present the topic of severe weather.
- Explain the importance of understanding severe weather for safety and preparedness.

# **2. Research Tasks**

Students might be assigned various tasks to research, such as:

- Investigating different types of severe weather.
- Understanding the science behind severe weather events.
- Exploring historical severe weather events and their impacts.
- Learning about safety measures and emergency preparedness.

# **3. Resources**

Provide a list of credible online resources for students to explore, such as:

- National Weather Service (NWS)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Weather Underground
- Local news stations' weather pages

# **4. Reflection and Discussion**

Encourage students to reflect on their findings and discuss them in groups. Questions for discussion may include:

- What severe weather phenomena are most common in your area?
- How can communities better prepare for severe weather events?
- What roles do technology and science play in predicting severe weather?

# **Sample Questions and Answers for Severe Weather Webquest**

The following is a compilation of typical questions that might appear in a severe weather webquest, along with their corresponding answers:

## **1. What are the characteristics of a tornado?**

- Tornadoes are characterized by a funnel-shaped cloud that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground.
- They can have wind speeds ranging from 40 to over 300 mph.
- Tornadoes typically form during severe thunderstorms when warm, moist air meets cool, dry air.

## **2. How do hurricanes form?**

- Hurricanes form over warm ocean waters, usually when sea surface temperatures are at least 80°F (27°C).
- They require moist air and low vertical wind shear to develop.
- The Coriolis effect helps to initiate their rotation.

## **3. What safety measures should be taken during a severe thunderstorm?**

- Stay indoors and away from windows.
- Avoid using electrical appliances and telephones.
- Listen to weather updates and local emergency services for information.

## **4. Describe the impact of blizzards on communities.**

- Blizzards can disrupt transportation, leading to road closures and delays.
- They can cause power outages due to heavy snow accumulation on power lines.
- Health risks such as hypothermia and frostbite increase during extreme cold and wind conditions.

## **5. What is the difference between a watch and a warning for severe weather?**

- A watch indicates that conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop.
- A warning means that severe weather is occurring or imminent and individuals should take immediate action.

## **Teaching Strategies for Severe Weather**

# Education

To effectively teach students about severe weather, educators can use a variety of strategies:

## 1. Interactive Learning

- Utilize simulations and online tools that allow students to visualize severe weather phenomena.
- Implement hands-on projects such as creating models of tornadoes or hurricanes.

## 2. Field Trips and Guest Speakers

- Organize field trips to local weather stations or emergency management offices.
- Invite meteorologists or emergency responders to speak about their experiences and expertise.

## 3. Incorporating Technology

- Use multimedia presentations to showcase severe weather events and their impacts.
- Encourage students to use apps and websites that track real-time weather conditions.

## 4. Community Involvement

- Engage students in community outreach programs that promote severe weather preparedness.
- Organize events where students can share their knowledge with younger students or local residents.

## Conclusion

The Severe Weather Webquest Answer Key provides an invaluable resource for educators and students dedicated to understanding the complexities of severe weather. By exploring various types of severe weather, their causes, and impacts, students can cultivate a deeper awareness of the importance of preparedness and safety. Through interactive learning experiences and community engagement, they can apply their knowledge in meaningful ways, ultimately contributing to a more resilient society. Understanding severe weather not only equips individuals with the necessary skills to respond to emergencies but also fosters a culture of safety and awareness that can save lives.

# **Frequently Asked Questions**

## **What is a webquest related to severe weather?**

A webquest related to severe weather is an educational activity that guides students to explore and research various aspects of severe weather phenomena using online resources.

## **What key topics should be included in a severe weather webquest?**

Key topics should include types of severe weather (like hurricanes, tornadoes, and blizzards), safety measures, weather forecasting, and the impact of severe weather on communities.

## **How can students demonstrate their understanding in a severe weather webquest?**

Students can demonstrate their understanding by creating presentations, writing reports, or developing safety plans based on their research findings.

## **What are some reliable sources for a severe weather webquest?**

Reliable sources include the National Weather Service, NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), and educational websites like NASA and Weather.com.

## **How does a webquest enhance learning about severe weather?**

A webquest enhances learning by encouraging critical thinking, promoting research skills, and allowing students to engage with real-world applications of severe weather knowledge.

## **What role does collaboration play in a severe weather webquest?**

Collaboration allows students to share insights, discuss findings, and create a more comprehensive understanding of severe weather phenomena through teamwork and diverse perspectives.

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