

The Tornado Drill

by ReadWorks



The alarm went off again. Jonas knew what to do this time. They all had to go out in the hall, sit next to each other, and curl up into a ball. This was in case there was a tornado. Jonas hadn't understood how in the world going into the hall and curling up into a ball would help you if you got hit by a tornado. Then his teacher had told him that they went into the hall to be away from windows that might break during a tornado. Curling up was in case something fell on you. That's why they put their hands over their neck, to protect it in case something sharp fell.

Molly had just joined the class, and she sat next to Jonas. When the alarm went off, Molly hid under her desk. Jonas had to tell her to get out from under there and follow the class in the hall.

It turned out to be a drill, just like last time. After a few minutes, all the students went back into their classroom and sat back down at their desks. After school, Jonas teased Molly about hiding under her desk when the alarm went off. "Scaredy cat!" he said. Molly laughed at him. "I wasn't scared," she replied. Molly explained. She had moved to Oklahoma from California last week. In school in California, when the alarm went off, it was an earthquake drill, not a tornado drill. During the earthquake drill, you were supposed to hide under your desk.

Kanisha overheard them. She told them she had just visited her cousins in Florida, and there they are more likely to face a hurricane instead of a tornado or an earthquake. One time the weather forecaster on the nightly news said that a hurricane had formed near Florida, and that the hurricane would probably impact the area. So school was closed completely the next day.

There are other storms that can be predicted at least a day before they hit, and schools might close if severe weather were likely to impact the areas near the schools. Jonas had cousins in Minnesota. They told him that they had three days in a row with no school because it wouldn't stop snowing. They had known about the snowstorm from a prediction by the weather forecaster the day before it started to snow.

"Any storm is scary, but I think earthquakes and tornadoes are the scariest," Molly said. "The weather forecaster can probably tell you if a hurricane or snowstorm will come. With earthquakes and tornadoes, you never know."

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What do students do during a tornado drill?

- A. go into the basement
- B. go into the hall and curl up in a ball
- C. hide under their desks
- D. stay home from school

2. What is the setting of this story?

- A. a classroom in Oklahoma
- B. a classroom in California
- C. a classroom in Florida
- D. a classroom in Minnesota

3. Read the following sentences: "Molly had just joined the class, and sat next to Jonas. When the alarm went off, Molly hid under her desk. Jonas had to tell her to get out from under there and follow the class in the hall."

Based on the evidence above, what conclusion can be made?

- A. Molly did not know it was a tornado drill at first.
- B. Jonas didn't know what to do in a tornado drill.
- C. Molly was hiding from Jonas because she felt shy.
- D. The teacher forgot about Molly during the drill.

4. Based on the story, what conclusion can be made about emergency drills?

- A. Emergency drills are different depending on the different weather.
- B. All emergency drills are the same.
- C. Emergency drills are different depending on the different school districts.
- D. Emergency drills are different depending on the different countries.

5. What is this story mainly about?

- A. the proper procedures for tornado drills
- B. the differences between Oklahoma and California culture
- C. the best way to make new students feel welcome at school
- D. the different ways people respond to weather across the US

6. Read the following sentences: "Jonas had cousins in Minnesota. They told him that they had three days in a row with no school because it wouldn't stop snowing, but they had known about the snowstorm from a prediction by the weather forecaster the day before it started to snow."

As used in the passage, what does the word "**forecaster**" mean?

- A. someone who reports breaking news stories on TV
- B. someone who makes predictions of the future
- C. someone who gives people instructions for drills
- D. someone who is an expert on snow

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

The weather forecaster can probably tell you if a tornado or hurricane will come. _____, with earthquakes you never know.

- A. Actually
- B. On the other hand
- C. Finally
- D. For example

8. Why did Molly hide under her desk during the tornado drill instead of going into the hall like Jonas?

9. Students in Oklahoma, California, Florida and Minnesota all have different ways of responding to weather in their areas. What evidence from the text supports this conclusion?

10. Why is it important to know what kind of weather is coming into your area? Use information from the story to support your answer.

Protecting Against Tornadoes

by ReadWorks



photograph of a tornado

Did you know that tornadoes come from thunderstorms? Thunderclouds build up when cool, dry air runs into warm, wet air. If enough cool air runs into warm air, clouds can start to gain energy and power. A tornado can result from this energy. A tornado is a spinning column created by the thunderstorm's strong winds. The winds are so strong that they can pick up water, dust, and scraps. A tornado can spin over 200 miles per hour, which means that it has a lot of force.



up-close photograph of a tornado

Tornadoes connect the ground to the thunderstorm clouds in the sky. The ground that the tornado touches is a dangerous place to be. Tornadoes can pick up people, cars, trucks, and houses. Sometimes, tornadoes can ruin whole towns. In the United States, towns in "Tornado Alley" are often hit hard by tornadoes. "Tornado Alley" is the nickname for Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska, because these states are most frequently hit by tornadoes.



Photo Credit: Getty Images

the aftermath of a tornado

The deadliest tornado to hit the United States was called the "Tri-State Tornado." The tornado blasted through three states and traveled for more than 300 miles. Six hundred ninety-five people were killed during this tornado. It occurred on March 18, 1925. Another deadly tornado swept through Gainesville, Georgia, and it is known as the "Gainesville Tornado." Two different storms collided to cause this tornado. It killed 203 people in its path. Over 750 homes were destroyed.



Photo Credit: FEMA Photo by Michael Raphael

photograph of a home destroyed from a tornado

Even though tornadoes have a lot of force, there are ways to protect your home. One way is to set up wind-proof shutters and doors. Some shutters and doors are designed to hold up against strong winds. Another way is to clip your roof down. Steel clips can help to keep your roof from flying off of your house. A third way to protect your home is to tie your house down with strong cables. These cables are designed to prevent your whole house from getting picked up by the tornado!

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is a spinning column created by a thunderstorm's strong winds?

- A. a shutter
- B. a steel clip
- C. a thundercloud
- D. a tornado

2. The text describes the dangerous force of tornadoes. Based on the text, what can tornadoes do to houses?

- A. protect them and keep them safe
- B. pick them up and destroy them
- C. blow wind and cool them down
- D. spin them around and tie them down

3. Read these sentences from the text.

"The ground that the tornado touches is a dangerous place to be. Tornadoes can pick up people, cars, trucks, and houses. Sometimes, tornadoes can ruin whole towns. In the United States, towns in 'Tornado Alley' are often hit hard by tornadoes."

What can you conclude from these sentences?

- A. "Tornado Alley" in the United States has the most tornadoes in the world.
- B. Many cars, houses, and towns have been damaged by tornadoes in "Tornado Alley."
- C. Tornadoes can move people, cars, and trucks safely to another place.
- D. The ground that a tornado touches is low, soft, and flat.

4. Read these sentences from the text.

The ground that the tornado touches is a dangerous place to be.
Tornadoes can pick up people, cars, trucks, and houses.

[. . .]

Even though tornadoes have a lot of force, there are ways to
protect your home.

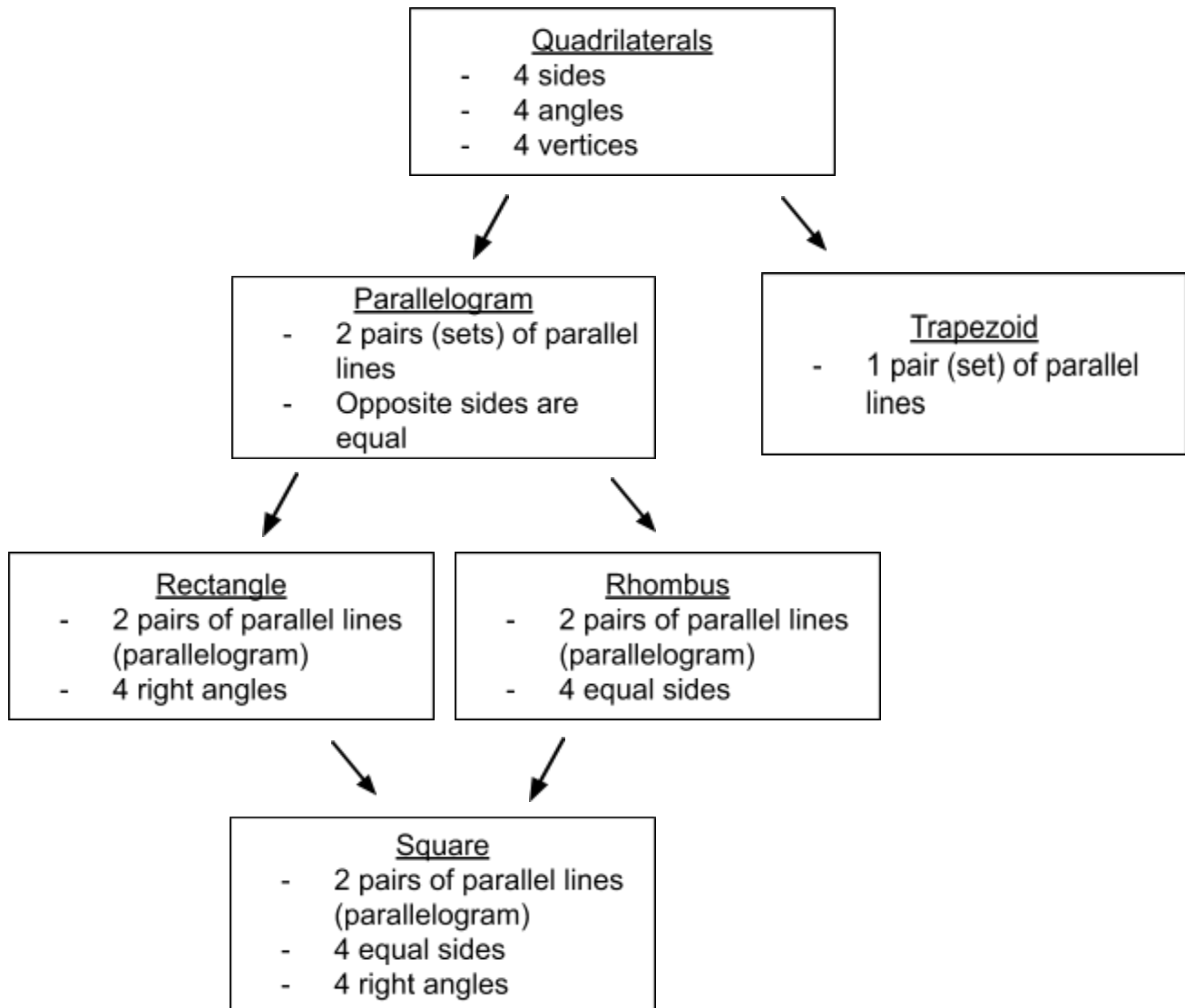
Based on the text, where is the safest place when a tornado hits?

- A. inside a protected car
- B. inside a protected truck
- C. inside a protected home
- D. under a protected truck

5. What is the main idea of this text?

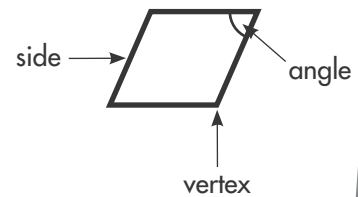
- A. Tornadoes are destructive, powerful forces, but homes can be protected from them.
- B. A thunderstorm's strong winds can pick up water and dust, and it can create a tornado.
- C. The "Tri-State Tornado" was the deadliest tornado in the United States, killing 695 people.
- D. Homes can be protected from tornadoes by using steel clips and strong cables.

Quadrilateral Attribute Flow Chart



AZ Vocabulary

1. A **polygon** is a closed shape that only has straight **sides**. The point at which two sides meet is a **vertex**. An **angle** is formed when two sides of a polygon meet.



The polygon at the right has _____ sides, _____ angles, and _____ vertices.

2. A **quadrilateral** is a polygon with four sides and four angles. Some quadrilaterals have special attributes, such as **parallel sides**, which are sides that never cross, and **right angles**, which are angles that form square corners.

Answer the questions about the polygon above.

Is the polygon a quadrilateral? _____

Does the polygon have parallel sides? _____

Does the polygon have right angles? _____

A parallelogram is a type of quadrilateral that has two pairs of parallel sides, opposite sides that are equal in length, and opposite angles that are equal in measure.

Complete each statement.

3. A rectangle is a parallelogram with 4 _____ angles.



4. A rhombus is a parallelogram with _____ equal sides.



5. A square is a parallelogram with _____ right angles and _____ equal sides.



6. A trapezoid is not a parallelogram. It has exactly one pair of _____ sides.



On the Back!

7. Draw and label these shapes: a square, a rhombus that is not a square, and a rectangle that is not a square.

AZ Vocabulary

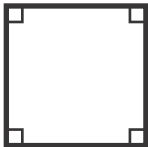
1. **Parallel sides** are sides of a polygon that do not cross.



A trapezoid has _____ pair(s) of parallel sides.

A parallelogram has _____ pair(s) of parallel sides.

2. **Right angles** form square corners.



A rectangle and a _____ each have 4 right angles.

3. Look for ways the shapes in Group 1 and Group 2 are alike and different. Look for attributes such as the length of the sides, parallel sides, and right angles.

Group 1



Group 2



How are the shapes in Group 1 and Group 2 alike?

All of the shapes have _____ sides and _____ angles.

How are the shapes in Group 1 and Group 2 different?

The shapes in Group 1 have _____ angles.

The shapes in Group 2 do not have _____ angles.

On the Back!

4. Describe how the two shapes are alike. Draw another shape that has this attribute.



AZ Vocabulary

1. **Quadrilaterals** have 4 sides.

Here are some examples of quadrilaterals.



square



rectangle



parallelogram



trapezoid



rhombus

A _____ has one pair of parallel sides.

_____ and _____ are parallelograms with four right angles.

_____ and _____ are parallelograms with all sides the same length.

2. Complete the statements below to name the shape that is not a parallelogram or a trapezoid.

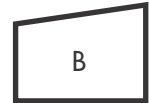
Parallelograms have two pairs of parallel sides. Shapes _____, _____, _____, and _____ are parallelograms.

Trapezoids have one pair of parallel sides. Shape _____ is a trapezoid.

The only shape that is not a parallelogram or a trapezoid is Shape _____.



A



B



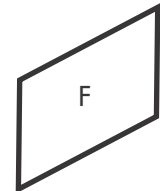
C



D



E



F

3. Complete the statements below to name the shape that is a rhombus, but not a rectangle.

Rhombuses have four sides with equal lengths.

Shapes _____ and _____ are rhombuses.

Rectangles have four right angles. Of the shapes that are rhombuses, only Shape _____ is a rectangle.

Only Shape _____ is a rhombus, but not a rectangle.

On the Back!

4. Name the shapes that are parallelograms, but not rectangles.

Turned to Stone

You probably see rocks every day. Rocks are not alive. But did you know that one type of rock is made from parts of creatures that were once alive? That rock is called limestone.

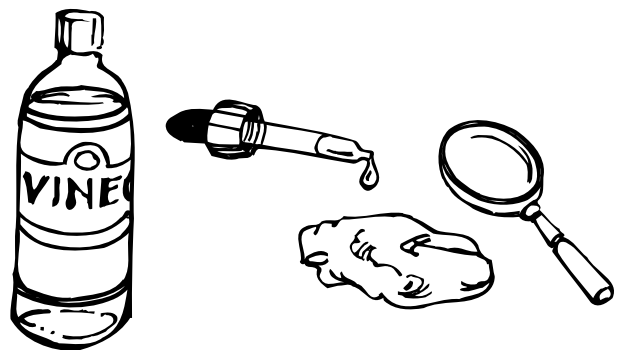
Limestone is a type of rock called sedimentary rock. Most limestone is formed from the shells of tiny animals that live in water. Limestone is also formed from the skeletons of an animal called coral. When the animals die, their shells float to the bottom of the ocean and break into many pieces. Over thousands of years, the layers of shell pieces build up. Upper layers press down on lower layers. The layers of shell pieces turn into solid rock. This rock is limestone. Sometimes you can see tiny pieces of animal shells in limestone.

Limestone is very soft compared to most rocks. Flowing water can easily wear away pieces of limestone. That is why many caves are made out of limestone.

Sometimes nature carves limestone into interesting shapes. In China there is a beautiful rock formation. Over thousands of years, rain dissolved a

huge block of limestone. Harder rocks within the limestone did not dissolve. These rocks can still be seen. They look like eggs sticking out of the ground.

If you find a rock that you think is made of limestone, there is an easy way to check. Fill an eyedropper with strong vinegar. Then squeeze a few drops onto the rock. Watch the rock through a magnifying glass. If it is limestone, the surface of the rock will fizz and bubble. The vinegar reacts with the limestone to produce a gas.



Limestone is often used for building. The rock is dug out of the ground in places called quarries. Limestone is cut into large blocks. These blocks can be used to build churches or other large buildings. In Europe, many old buildings are made of limestone. Because the rock is soft, it can be carved. You

can often see these carvings in old churches, palaces, and other buildings. Limestone is also crushed into tiny stones. This crushed stone is used to build roads and sidewalks.

Ancient people also used limestone to make art. In England there are many limestone cliffs. People carved pictures of horses and other things into the limestone. These huge carvings can still be seen today.

Limestone truly has an amazing story. It is formed from parts of once-living animals in the ocean. These parts are changed into a special kind of rock. People might use that rock to create a work of art or the pavement under your feet. That's a long way to travel from the bottom of the sea!

Rocks Times Three

There are three types of rocks:

Sedimentary rocks are formed when particles of matter are laid down in many layers and pressed together.

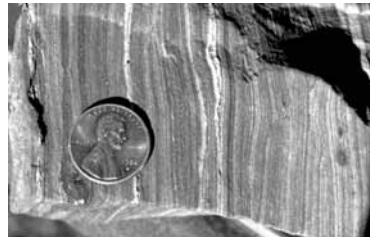


Photo by Nick Ferris

Igneous rocks are formed when hot liquid rock from the center of the Earth comes to the surface, cools, and hardens.



Photo by Nick Ferris

Metamorphic rocks are formed when heat and pressure inside the Earth change one kind of rock into another kind of rock.



Photo by Nick Ferris

Name _____



Questions about *Turned to Stone*

1. How is limestone formed?

2. What type of rock is limestone?

3. Why are there likely to be caves in limestone formations?

4. What is one way to tell whether a rock is limestone?

5. Name three ways people use limestone.

6. You are on a hike and you find a limestone cliff. What do you know about what that land was like millions of years ago? Support your answer with information from the story.

Name _____



Vocabulary

Use the words in the box to help you unscramble each numbered word. Then find the correct meaning below and write the letter on the short line.

| Word Box | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| coral | dissolves | quarries | igneous | limestone |
| sedimentary | metamorphic | ancient | skeletons | magnifying |

- 1. seguino _____
- 2. arcmeotimhp _____
- 3. lorca _____
- 4. reusqira _____
- 5. leteksns0 _____
- 6. rinsdaeyetm _____
- 7. svisodels _____
- 8. gfyymiignna _____
- 9. stmileeno _____
- 10. tneicna _____

- a. causing to appear larger
- b. a type of animal that lives underwater
- c. supporting bony structures of vertebrates
- d. disappears when mixed with water
- e. places where rocks are dug out of the ground
- f. any rock formed by hot liquid from the center of the Earth
- g. belonging to times long ago
- h. any rock formed when heat and pressure change one type of rock into another
- i. any rock formed when layers of matter are pressed together
- j. a sedimentary rock formed from shells and skeletons of tiny sea animals

Unified Arts

Choose 1 or more activities each day from the list to complete.

Art: (Lmarcum@monroelocalschools.com) Or (Crilling@monroelocalschools.com)

- Comic Strip:** Create a comic illustrating the beginning, middle, and end of a story or joke. You can fold a piece of copy or notebook paper into sections to create your “panels/frames.” Don’t forget to add a title, characters (family members?), and speech bubbles! Color with markers, crayons, or colored pencils and remember to fill the page and be creative!
- Toy/Stuffed Animal:** Draw your favorite toy or stuffed animal. Why is it your favorite? Where/when did you get it? Who gave it to you? You can use copy paper or notebook paper. Color with markers, crayons, or colored pencils and remember to fill the page and be creative!
- Nature Art:** Create a face using items found in nature. Think about clever ways to use found materials and textures! Long leaves or grass= hair, dandelions= eyes, flowers= crown, Leaf= Lips. Be creative, be BOLD, and have fun!

Music: (Lbadgett@monroelocalschools.com) or (Mharrell@monroelocalschools.com)

- Call a family member or friend and sing a song to them. (Hint: do you know of anyone having a birthday soon?)
- Read a picture book and add voices for each character and sound effects to match the action!

Physical Education: (thines@monroelocalschools.com) or (sdarrell@monroelocalschools.com)

- Ziploc Soccer Juggling Challenge:** Fill one large ziploc bag with air and seal. See how many times you can juggle the bag with your feet before it hits the ground
- Throw it Challenge:** Throwing and catching are two skills that go hand in hand. Can you toss a ball and catch it in a bucket or a grocery bag using a variety of tricks and exercises? Remember to bend your arms to absorb the force of the ball to keep it in the bucket. If you don’t have a ball - roll a sock up into a ball to create your own.
- Sock Ball Plank Challenge:** You need three pairs of socks rolled up. Place the sock balls on the floor next to your right hand. Get in a plank position. Move the sock balls one at a time to your other hand. When you have moved all the balls to the other side you receive 1 point. Keep going! Move the balls back to the other side. See how many points you can get in 1 minute.

STEAM: (Please share with me when you’re finished if you are able. Have fun!)

- Devise a SECRET CODE to send messages to others in a group. Create a message and a way to interpret it, so that it can only be deciphered by a person in your group. Suggested materials: paper, markers, lemon juice, baking soda, grape juice, light bulb, milk, Q-tips.
- Create a useful product made entirely out of DUCT TAPE. For this challenge you may only use duct tape and scissors.
- Construct a MODEL BOAT made of only trash or items from your recycle bin. Your boat must be wind-propelled across a tub of water by blowing through a straw. Time yourself and record your speeds. Suggested materials: used or discarded items, rubber bands, craft sticks, clay, pencils, paper clips, paper, egg cartons, etc.