

**Directions: Please read the following Common Core Reading passage and answer the questions that follow.**

## **Common Core Reading Passage**

### **Forecasting Severe Weather to Communities Helps Them Prepare**

By Alissa Fleck

Severe weather does not happen in one place all the time, but when it happens, it's important to be prepared for it. Knowing the weather risks of where you live and how to plan for them are key to staying safe in any kind of storm.

While tornadoes can hit any part of the United States at any time of year, there are parts of the country—and certain seasons—in which tornadoes are much more common than others. Tornadoes primarily hit the U.S. in an L-shaped area from Iowa to Colorado to Texas. Oklahoma has the highest impact zone. Most tornadoes take place in this region in the month of May.

It's very helpful for weather scientists, emergency responders and community members to be aware of this so-called "Tornado Alley" in keeping people safe. While it may be difficult to protect buildings and other structures, maintaining public awareness helps humans protect themselves and their families in instances of severe weather. Protecting human lives is the most important thing. The National Weather Service provides timely warnings, and local TV and radio stations broadcast these warnings so that people in the tornado's path can seek shelter in time. Towns also set off warning sirens that indicate there is potential for a tornado.

People who live in areas with high tornado frequency are also familiar with how to prepare for these events. One way people might prepare for a tornado is to seek protection in a basement

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or storm shelter where heavy winds are less likely to blow around dangerous objects, which could hurt someone. Often during storms people get hurt by flying debris rather than the storm itself. People who don't have basements or have disabilities preventing them from moving with ease are sometimes encouraged to lie down in a bathtub and cover their heads. These are just some of the ways people stay safe when a tornado is on the way.

Hurricanes, on the other hand, tend to strike coastal regions. You would not see a hurricane hit the Tornado Alley, for instance, because there are no oceans nearby. Florida is one state in the U.S. that gets hit by a large number of hurricanes.

Meteorologists can usually predict hurricanes several days in advance. If it's safe to stay at home during a hurricane, people are advised to cover their windows with shutters and stock up on food, water, medication, batteries and other items they might need. As with tornadoes and other severe weather, people should expect to lose power to their homes for potentially several days or more. Even when the hurricane has passed, there can still be dangerous flooding in the streets for which people should also be prepared.

Sometimes government emergency services will decide it's not safe for people in the hurricane's path to stay in their homes, and they will be told to evacuate in advance. When people evacuate their homes, they move to a safer region until the storm passes and they can return home.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is one type of severe weather discussed in this passage?
  - A earthquakes
  - B tornadoes
  - C tidal waves
  - D heat waves
  
2. What does this passage compare and contrast with tornadoes?
  - A This passage compares and contrasts basements with tornadoes.
  - B This passage compares and contrasts emergency services with tornadoes.
  - C This passage compares and contrasts Oklahoma with tornadoes.
  - D This passage compares and contrasts hurricanes with tornadoes.
  
3. Read this sentence: "While it may be difficult to protect buildings and other structures, maintaining public awareness helps humans protect themselves and their families in instances of severe weather."  
What evidence from the passage supports this statement?
  - A "While tornadoes can hit any part of the United States at any time of year, there are parts of the country—and certain seasons—in which tornadoes are much more common than others."
  - B "The National Weather Service provides timely warnings, and local TV and radio stations broadcast these warnings so that people in the tornado's path can seek shelter in time."
  - C "You would not see a hurricane hit the Tornado Alley, for instance, because there are no oceans nearby."
  - D "Severe weather does not happen in one place all the time, but when it happens, it's important to be prepared for it."
  
4. Which state would a tornado be most likely to strike in May?
  - A Oklahoma
  - B New York
  - C California
  - D Florida

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5. What is this passage mostly about?

- A the National Weather Service
- B flooding caused by hurricanes
- C preparing for tornadoes and hurricanes
- D Colorado, Iowa, Texas, Oklahoma, and Florida

6. Read the following sentences: "As with tornadoes and other **severe** weather, people should expect to lose power to their homes for potentially several days or more."

What does the word **severe** mean in the sentence above?

- A simple
- B winter
- C very bad
- D very calm

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

People should prepare for severe weather, \_\_\_\_\_ tornadoes and hurricanes.

- A such as
- B however
- C meanwhile
- D third

8. According to the passage, what is one way that people prepare for a tornado?

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**9.** According to the passage, what is one way that people prepare for a hurricane?

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**10.** What are some similarities between preparing for a tornado and preparing for a hurricane? Support your answer with evidence from the passage.

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