

Weather Trivia for Kids



What do you call an individual who forecasts the weather?

A meteorologist.

What are the two ingredients needed for a rainbow to form?

Water and sunshine

How many points does a snowflake have?

Six

What is the name of the famous movie about a tornado?

Twister

What color is the screen that television meteorologists use to show people the weather forecast?

Green (alternate answer can be blue)

What do you call the burst of electricity in the sky that occurs when a thunderstorm is nearby?

Lightning

What is the term used to describe snow, sleet, hail, and rain?

Precipitation

When thunder roars, what should you do next?

Go indoors!

What is the fastest speed a raindrop can fall?

23 mph

What do you call an extremely dry period with no rain?

A drought

What is the center of a hurricane called?

The eye

What does NWS stand for?

National Weather Service

What is 0 degrees Celsius in Fahrenheit?

32 degrees

What type of weather is hotter than the surface of the sun?

Lightning

How many times per year is the Empire State Building struck by lightning?

An average of 25 times!

What kind of biome is Antarctica?

A desert! This continent only gets 2 inches of precipitation each year.

Weather Instrument and Measurement Trivia



What do you call the device used to measure temperature?

A thermometer

What is the proper term for the weathervane that you see on top of farm houses that is adorned with a rooster?

A weathercock

What do you call the container that measures precipitation rates?

A rain gauge

What does a hygrometer do?

It measures humidity

What instrument measures air pressure?

A barometer

How do you measure the speed of the wind?

You use an anemometer.

What are the three pieces of data that a weather balloon collects?

Temperature, relative humidity, and air pressure

What atmospheric phenomena does the Beaufort scale measure?

Wind strengths

What is the name of the scale used to determine a tornado's intensity rating?

The Enhanced Fujita Scale

What does the Saffir-Simpson Scale measure?

The maximum sustained wind speed of a hurricane

World Record Weather Trivia and Weird Norms You May Not Know



What is the coldest temperature ever recorded on Earth, and where did it occur?

-128.6 degrees Fahrenheit in Vostok, Antarctica

What is the hottest temperature ever recorded on Earth, and where did it occur?

134 degrees Fahrenheit in Furnace Creek Ranch, CA, USA

What is the highest yearly rainfall total for a single town?

1,042 inches (in Cherrapunji, India)

What is the fastest surface wind gust ever recorded?

253 mph (in Barrow Island, Australia during Tropical Cyclone Olivia)

What country is the lightning capital of the world?

Venezuela

What type of weather kills the most people every year?

Extreme heat

What is the highest number of people who have died from a single direct lightning strike?

21 people

What is the highest wind speed ever recorded in a tornado?

302 mph

What is the greatest distance a single tornado has ever traveled?

219 miles - it traveled from Ellington, MO, USA to Princeton, IN, USA

How many lightning strikes happen everyday worldwide?

8.6 million

Between 1950 and present day, which month has the most recorded tornado touchdowns in the United States?

May

What is the highest storm surge ever recorded?

42 feet

How much did the heaviest hailstone in history weigh?

2.25 pounds

Tornadoes pick things up and carry them to other locations. What is the longest recorded distance an item has traveled?

223 miles

What was the item?

A personal check

Severe Weather Trivia



What are the three main tornado types?

Rope, cone, and wedge tornadoes

What do you call a tornado that forms over water?

A waterspout

How far away from a thunderstorm can you be and still be struck by lightning?

12 miles

What is the difference between a weather watch and a weather warning?

A watch means that there is the possibility of severe weather whereas a warning means that the severe weather is already occurring in your region.

What is graupel?

Soft hail

What do you call precipitation that freezes on contact when it hits a surface?

Freezing rain

What do you call snow that leaves the cloud, partially melts, and then refreezes before it hits the ground?

Sleet

What is the National Weather Service's slogan for flooding safety?

Turn around, don't drown!

What do you call a rope-like tornado that forms from the ground up?

A landspout

What is the minimum wind speed that a Tropical Storm must have in order to be classified as a hurricane?

74 mph

What is the wind speed that triggers a Severe Thunderstorm Warning?

58 mph

What other factor can cause a Severe Thunderstorm Warning to be issued?

Hail with a diameter of at least one inch.

How do you determine how far away lightning is from your location?

Count the seconds in between the clap of thunder and the lightning strike and then divide that number by five. This will give you the number of miles between you and the strike.

Lightning deaths happen every year. What sport has the highest number of fatalities?

Soccer

Are boys or girls more likely to get struck by lightning?

The data shows that boys are four times more likely to get struck!

What part of your car protects you from a lightning strike?

The metal frame

We often hear meteorologists say that there is golf ball-sized hail falling.

What is the actual measurement of this hail?

1.75 inches

Weird Weather Trivia That Will Wow Any Crowd



What do you call the clouds that people mistake for UFOs?

Lenticular clouds

What do you call a wall of dust that is many times is accompanied by a blue sky?

A haboob

What do you call the halo that often forms around the sun when it is low on the horizon?

A sun dog

What is the official term for the smell that accompanies rain?

Petrichor

What do you call the white streaks that form in the sky after a plane flies by?

Contrails

What causes a white rainbow?

Otherwise known as fogbows, these rings form when in fog, which give them their ghostly hue. In case you didn't know, the droplets that comprise fog are much smaller than raindrops, making it hard to see the spectrum of colors coming through.

What is the name of the clouds that look like ocean waves?

Kelvin-Helmholtz clouds

What do you call light rain that falls from the cloud, but evaporates before it hits the ground?

Virga showers

Newscasters call them fire tornadoes. What is their actual name?

Fire whirls (these are not actual tornadoes)

What kind of clouds look like a field of melons?

Mammatus clouds

What is ombrophobia?

An extreme fear of rain

What is nephophobia?

A fear of clouds