Weather Hazards

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: Weather hazards are severe weather events like **thunderstorms**, **tornadoes**, **blizzards**, **floods** and **heat waves**. Listen to warnings and know how to stay safe.

When thunder roars, go indoors!

Severe Weather



Most weather is safe, but some weather is **severe** and can be dangerous. These are called **weather hazards**.

A **thunderstorm** brings heavy rain, thunder and lightning. A **tornado** is a spinning column of air that reaches down from a storm cloud. Its winds can destroy buildings in seconds.

A **blizzard** is a winter storm with strong winds and blowing snow that make it very hard to see. A **flood** happens when water covers land that is usually dry. A **heat wave** is a long stretch of very hot days.

To stay safe, listen to weather warnings. Go indoors during thunderstorms. Go to a basement during a tornado. Stay home in a blizzard, and drink lots of water in a heat wave.

1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. What is a weather hazard?

(a) Severe, dangerous weather (b) A sunny day (c) A light breeze

2. What is a tornado?

(a) A spinning column of air (b) Very hot days (c) Water covering land

3. Where should you go during a tornado?

(a) Outside (b) To a basement (c) To a hilltop

4. What helps you stay safe in a heat wave?

(a) Running outside at noon (b) Wearing a heavy coat (c) Drinking lots of water

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2. Which hazard?

Circle the hazard each clue describes.

1	strong winds and blowing snow	blizzard	flood	heat wave
2	water covers dry land	blizzard	flood	heat wave
3	many very hot days in a row	blizzard	flood	heat wave
4	you can barely see through the snow	blizzard	flood	heat wave
5	rivers overflow after heavy rain	blizzard	flood	heat wave
6	drink water and stay in the shade	blizzard	flood	heat wave

3. Think like a scientist

Answer in a complete sentence.

1. **Why is it important to listen to weather warnings?**

Answer Key

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1. Check your understanding

1. What is a weather hazard?

a Severe, dangerous weather b A sunny day c A light breeze

2. What is a tornado?

a A spinning column of air b Very hot days c Water covering land

3. Where should you go during a tornado?

a Outside **b To a basement** c To a hilltop

4. What helps you stay safe in a heat wave?

a Running outside at noon b Wearing a heavy coat **c Drinking lots of water**

2. Which hazard?

		blizzard	flood	heat wave
1	strong winds and blowing snow	●		
2	water covers dry land		●	
3	many very hot days in a row			●
4	you can barely see through the snow	●		
5	rivers overflow after heavy rain		●	
6	drink water and stay in the shade			●

3. Think like a scientist

Sample answer.

1. **Why is it important to listen to weather warnings?**
   Warnings tell us when dangerous weather is coming, so we have time to get somewhere safe.