



# Discovery Worksheets

## Movie review — Twister

In the movie *Twister* (Warner Brothers, PG, 113 minutes), Helen Hunt and Bill Paxton play scientists chasing twisters (tornadoes) through middle America's 'Tornado Alley'. Watch the film and make notes on the following five areas. Use your notes to complete the activities and learn more about the power and destructive force of tornadoes.

**1. Weather events:**

- (a) Make a list of weather events that give us clues that a tornado might soon occur.
- (b) Refer to pages 12–13 of the *Atlas of Discovery* to complete these statements:  
Tornadoes descend in a ..... shape from large thunderclouds known as .....  
..... air pressure at the centre of the tornado .....  
surrounding air as well as cars, livestock and even houses.  
Tornadoes forming over water are known as .....

**2. Power of tornadoes:**

List 10 items from the film that are sucked up by tornadoes. Rank them below from lightest to heaviest.

- Lightest
- 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.
  - 6.
  - 7.
  - 8.
  - 9.
- Heaviest 10.

**3. Tracking tornadoes:**

- (a) What is the name for a scientist who tracks weather patterns and provides warnings about dangerous weather?

- (b) In the film *Twister*, who or what is Dorothy? Why is it important that Dorothy is successful?

**4. Tornado damage:**

Look at the photograph below of tornado damage. Make a sketch of the scene and colour in the path of the tornado. Why do tornadoes destroy some houses and leave others intact?



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**5. Surviving a tornado:**

- (a) Record from the film the different places that people use to take refuge from tornadoes.
- (b) Design your own tornado shelter and add labels to show the safety features.



*Atlas of Discovery*, pp. 12–13