

DATELINE: Early in May 1999, dozens of tornadoes ripped through the states of Oklahoma and Kansas in the mid-west of the U.S.A. killing 43 people and injuring 669. Winds in the tornadoes were over 400 kilometres per hour, causing hundreds of millions of dollars worth of damage to property. In Oklahoma City, 1500 homes in a band 800 metres wide and 30 kilometres long were destroyed by a violent tornado that lasted for 45 minutes. Meteorologists described the tornadoes as a 'super outbreak'.

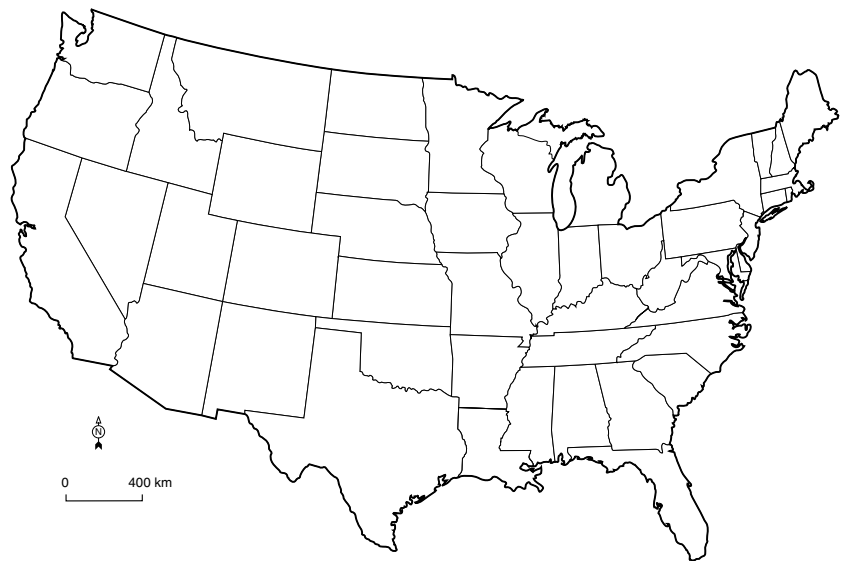
- Using the outline map of the U.S.A. below and pages 198–9 of the *Jacaranda Atlas*, mark in the cities of **Wichita** and **Oklahoma City**.

- Study the map of tornado risk on page 200 of the *Jacaranda Atlas*.

(a) Shade in the areas of high and highest risk on the map below.

(b) What level of risk exists for the cities of Wichita and Oklahoma City?
_____ risk.

(c) Name two other cities that have the same level of risk.



- Study the graph on page 200 of the *Jacaranda Atlas*.

What has been the average number of

(a) reported tornadoes in the month of April? _____

(b) deaths in the month of April? _____

- What was the death and injury toll from the tornado outbreak of May 1999? _____

- What months have greatest average numbers of

(a) tornadoes, and _____

(b) deaths caused by tornadoes?

- Using the information and the diagram on page 200 of the *Jacaranda Atlas*, add the following labels to the blank diagram to explain the formation of a tornado:
warm humid air, dirt and debris, vortex, updraft, gentler mid-level winds, strong upper-level winds, supercell thunderstorm, mesocyclone.

