

## **UNIT OVERVIEW**

**“Storms: Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Blizzards, and Droughts”** is a two week language arts unit intended for use with Grade Two children. It can be used to strengthen the children’s reading and writing skills. Throughout this unit, children are involved in activities that focus their attention on language and how it is used. They brainstorm, work with words, read, determine the meaning of words, use descriptive words, use context, and write complete sentences.

A display of books about storms should be set up in the classroom. The books motivate the children and encourage them to read for enjoyment and for information. Children read these books in their spare time and during silent reading.

### **Section One: Lesson Plans**

Section One contains two weeks of lesson plans. The lesson plans describe the different teaching strategies for using the activities in each day’s lesson. Each lesson includes a spelling activity, a brainstorming activity, a study of words, work in the student booklet, work at the writing center, playing the storms vocabulary game, and a parent page.

### **Section Two: Student Booklets**

Section Two includes a student booklet that is ready to be photocopied for student use. There are two pages that go along with each of the storms fact cards. The first page contains three vocabulary words, three descriptive words, and a fill in the blank activity. The second page contains five questions about the storm fact card the children read in class. The children are encouraged to answer the questions using complete sentences.

### **Section Three: Parent Pages**

Section Three includes ten parent pages. The children take home a parent page at the end of each day’s lesson. The parent pages reinforce what the children learn each day. They are meant to make the parents aware of what their children are learning in school and should only take ten minutes each evening to complete.

D. Questions

1. What happens during a cyclone?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Where do cyclones start?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. When do cyclones occur?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Why do winds spiral around in a cyclone?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. How far can cyclones move each day?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Typhoons



A. Word Meanings

1. rises

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. rushes

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. damage

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

B. Print Two Descriptive Words

1. typhoon \_\_\_\_\_

2. air \_\_\_\_\_

3. eye \_\_\_\_\_

C. Fill in the Blanks

1. Typhoons start over \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Warm air rises and \_\_\_\_\_ until it forms a typhoon.

3. Typhoons move \_\_\_\_\_.

4. The strong winds cause lots of \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Typhoons form between the months of \_\_\_\_\_ and November.

Typhoon Fact Card

A typhoon is a type of cyclone that occurs over the Pacific Ocean. They are storms with powerful winds. Typhoons start over the ocean when warm air rises and spirals upward. More air rushes in underneath and then that air also rises and spins. This spinning air builds until it forms a typhoon. In the center of a typhoon is an area called an eye. Typhoons travel slowly but their strong winds cause lots of damage. There are up to twenty-five typhoons every year. Typhoons occur between June and November.

Tornado Fact Card

A tornado is a powerful swirling windstorm. It starts as a funnel cloud that hangs down from a thundercloud and then touches the ground. Tornadoes are smaller than hurricanes but have stronger winds. Tornadoes occur when warm, moist air meets cool, dry air. The warm air quickly rises over top of the cool air pushing the building clouds even higher. The tremendous turbulence created within these 'supercell' storms causes the air to spin and thus a tornado forms. They occur all over the world. Tornadoes spin counterclockwise in the northern hemisphere and clockwise in the southern hemisphere. Tornadoes often destroy everything they touch. The strength of a tornado is measured on the Fujita Scale.

In North America, tornadoes are called twisters. There can be 100 or more twisters a year. Most twisters in North America occur in the spring or early summer. Most twisters in North America last only ten minutes and travel a short distance. Only a few twisters last more than ten minutes and travel more than 100 miles.

SPELLING LISTS

Week 1 – List A

over  
wind  
form  
middle  
warm  
there  
fills  
blow  
land  
large  
start  
waves  
rise  
spin  
rush

Week 1 – List B

builds  
center  
calm  
between  
strong  
inward  
air  
eye  
year  
power  
whirling  
heavy  
eight  
type  
storm

Week 1 – List C

cyclone  
replace  
underneath  
clockwise  
minutes  
hurricane  
Atlantic  
hemisphere  
ocean  
typhoon  
Pacific  
spirals  
twister  
tornado  
powerful

Week 2 – List A

more  
back  
cloud  
ground  
sea  
dirt  
dust  
little  
long  
rain  
new  
wood  
ring  
pond  
soil

Week 2 – List B

damage  
every  
touches  
warm  
windstorm  
coast  
inland  
water  
predict  
past  
crumbles  
stream  
helpful  
harmful  
area

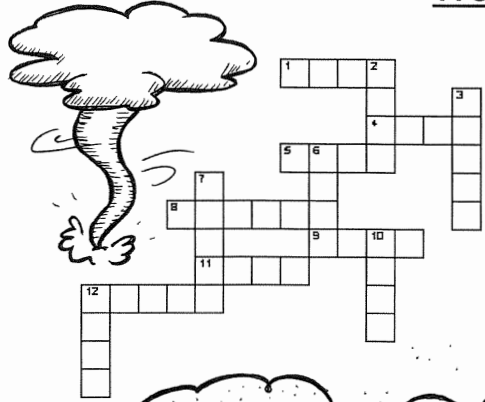
Week 2 – List C

America  
northern  
southern  
waterspout  
violent  
saltwater  
rainstorm  
diameter  
drought  
weather  
forecaster  
blizzard  
deposit  
thunder  
lightning



## CROSSWORD PUZZLES

### Week 1 – List A

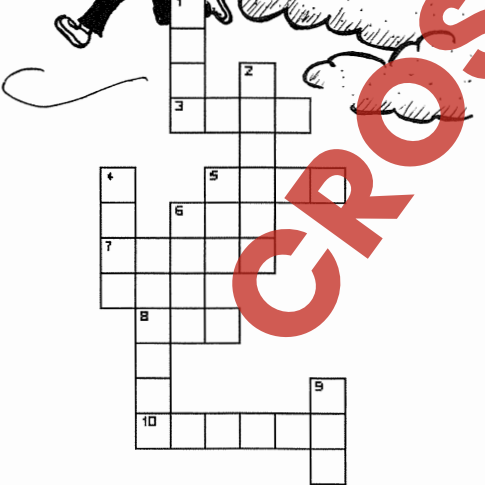


**ACROSS**  
 1 My Mom had to \_\_\_\_\_ up five balloons.  
 4 We are always in a \_\_\_\_\_ in the morning.  
 5 The clay was in the \_\_\_\_\_ of a person.  
 8 I sit in the \_\_\_\_\_ row.  
 9 The hot air balloon started to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 11 The plane will \_\_\_\_\_ in one hour.  
 12 The ocean \_\_\_\_\_ were high.

**DOWN**  
 2 It is ven \_\_\_\_\_ in here.  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_ are only six days of school left.  
 6 We went \_\_\_\_\_ the bridge.  
 7 Dad \_\_\_\_\_ his cup with coffee.  
 10 Did you see the top \_\_\_\_\_?  
 12 The \_\_\_\_\_ blew my hat off.

blow fills form land middle over rise  
 rush spin there warm waves wind

### Week 2 – List A



**ACROSS**  
 3 We covered the seeds with \_\_\_\_\_.  
 5 I helped my Mom \_\_\_\_\_ the house.  
 7 A dark \_\_\_\_\_ hung over the park.  
 8 We rode a boat on the \_\_\_\_\_.  
 10 I have a \_\_\_\_\_ brother.

**DOWN**  
 1 Our house is made of \_\_\_\_\_.  
 2 There was snow on the \_\_\_\_\_.  
 4 When did you get \_\_\_\_\_ from your trip?  
 6 I wanted \_\_\_\_\_ pink lemonade.  
 8 My Dad put more \_\_\_\_\_ in the garden.  
 9 I have \_\_\_\_\_ shoes.

back cloud dirt dust ground little  
 more new sea soil wood

## WORD SEARCH PUZZLES

### Week 1 – List A

O V E R W A V E S  
 M I D D L E B U R  
 W L A R G E Z A U  
 A T F I L L S Q S  
 R B H S T A R T H  
 M X L E F R I S E  
 G Y X O R S P I N  
 W I N D W E H T N  
 F O R M F L A N D

over wind  
 form middle  
 warm there  
 fills blow  
 land large  
 start waves  
 rise spin  
 rush

### Week 2 – List A

S O I L O N G P  
 M O R E N E W O  
 R I N G R A I N  
 G R O U N D B D  
 D O R B A C K I  
 C L O U D J R R  
 I X J S E A O T  
 L I T T L E A N  
 W O O D U S T A

more back  
 cloud ground  
 sea dirt  
 dust little  
 long rain  
 new wood  
 ring pond  
 soil

## STORMS VOCABULARY GAME

cyclone	powerful, swirling windstorm over the Indian Ocean
hurricane	powerful, swirling windstorm over the Atlantic Ocean
typhoon	powerful, swirling windstorm over the Pacific Ocean
tornado	funnel cloud that touches the ground from a thundercloud
waterspout	tornado that forms over the sea

## UNIT TEST

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

A. Fill in the blanks with the correct word.

eye southern drought soil rains

- The center of a cyclone is a calm area called the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Hurricanes produce heavy \_\_\_\_\_ and high waves.
- Tornadoes spin clockwise in the \_\_\_\_\_ hemisphere.
- Duststorms harm farmland by moving rich \_\_\_\_\_ to other areas.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ occurs when there is little or no rain for a long time.

B. Match the word to its definition by writing the number in the blank.

- |                    |                                       |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| _____ waterspout   | 1. swirling storm in the Indian Ocean |
| _____ blizzard     | 2. windstorm that carries sand        |
| _____ sandstorm    | 3. tornado over the water             |
| _____ thunderstorm | 4. storm with thunder and lightning   |
| _____ cyclone      | 5. winter storm with blowing snow     |