

storm

Any disturbed state of the atmosphere that creates unpleasant weather like rain, lightning, thunder, hail, snow, sleet, and freezing rain.

blizzard

An intense winter storm with winds of 35 miles per hour or higher with falling and/or blowing snow to reduce visibility below 1/4 mile for at least three hours.

cyclone

Large scale air mass that rotates around strong centers of low pressure, characterized by inward spiraling winds that rotate counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.

disturbance

A low pressure system, a tropical area of storminess, or any area in which the weather is in a state of cloudiness, precipitation or wind.

funnel cloud

A tornado that doesn't reach the ground, which has a rotating cone-shaped column of air extending downward from the base of a cumulonimbus or thunderstorm cloud, but whose circulation does not make contact with the ground.

hurricane

Intense storms with swirling winds up to 150 miles per hour, usually around 300 miles across, and 1,000-5,000 times larger than tornadoes. Known by different names around the world. In Japan they are typhoons, while Australians call them willy-willys.

squall line

supercell

thunder

<p>A line of thunderstorms sometimes several hundred miles long that can produce strong thunderstorms and sometimes severe weather.</p>	<p>A severe thunderstorm whose updrafts and downdrafts are in near balance for several hours. Often produce large hail and tornadoes.</p>	<p>The explosive sound of air expanding as it is heated by lightning.</p>
<p><u>thunderstorm</u></p>	<p><u>tornado</u></p>	<p><u>tropical storm</u></p>
<p>A storm produced by a cumulonimbus cloud and always has lightning and thunder. Rain, hail and high winds may or may not occur.</p>	<p>Begins as a funnel cloud with spinning columns of air that drop down from a severe thunderstorm. Between 300 and 2,000 feet wide and travel at speeds of 20 to 45 miles per hour, usually lasts a few minutes, but its spinning winds can lift houses into the air and rip trees from the ground.</p>	<p>A low-pressure disturbance that forms over warm tropical ocean waters.</p>
<p><u>tropical depression</u></p>	<p><u>typhoon</u></p>	<p><u>lightning</u></p>
<p>A low-pressure disturbance that forms over warm tropical ocean waters and produces winds of 38 m.p.h. or less.</p>	<p>The term for a hurricane in the western Pacific Ocean.</p>	<p>An enormous and very hot spark of electricity produced by thunderstorms. It can heat the air through which it travels to 54,000° F.</p>

rain

Liquid precipitation in the form of water drops that falls from clouds, usually for several hours.

rain gauge

A device for collecting and measuring the amount of rain that falls.

wall cloud

An area of a cloud that extends underneath a thunderstorm. If it rotates, it might form a tornado.

sandstorm

A strong wind which carries sand through the air, and usually occurs in desert regions, often among sand dunes.

low pressure system

A whirling mass of warm, moist air that generally brings stormy weather with strong winds. When viewed from above, winds spiral in a counterclockwise rotation in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.

tornado alley

The portion of the United States where tornadoes occur most frequently, between the Plains area from the Rocky Mountains on the west to the Appalachian Mountains on the east.