



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

## SEVERE WEATHER: AVALANCHES AND LANDSLIDES

1. Write a few sentences listing some things that can cause landslides to happen.
2. Do you think it would be harder to survive a landslide or an avalanche? Why?
3. What tools can help people stop avalanches from happening?
  - A. drones
  - B. maps
  - C. explosives
4. Why would learning when storms might come help people predict avalanches?
  - A. Avalanches often happen after storms.
  - B. Avalanches cannot happen near storms.
  - C. Avalanches and storms have the same causes.



5. What does **tumbles** mean in the *Avalanches and Landslides* book?

***An avalanche is falling snow, ice, and rocks. In a landslide, dirt or rock tumbles down.***

- A. drops or falls
- B. stays very still
- C. disappears

6. What does **rescue** mean in the *Avalanches and Landslides* book?

***Rescue teams can go to those areas. These teams save people in danger.***

- A. looking up at clouds in the sky
- B. helping people who are hurt or unsafe
- C. working late at night in the dark



## **ANSWER KEY FOR SEVERE WEATHER: AVALANCHES AND LANDSLIDES**

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. C
4. A
5. A
6. B



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

## SEVERE WEATHER: BLIZZARDS

1. Write a few sentences describing how blizzards form.
2. Would you like to work as a scientist who studies weather? Why or why not?
3. How long must a snowstorm last to be a blizzard?
  - A. just a few minutes
  - B. three hours
  - C. five days
4. Why would having more snow make blizzards worse?
  - A. More snow would make the wind slower.
  - B. More snow would make the air drier.
  - C. More snow could blow into the air, making it harder to see.



5. What does **blinding** mean in the *Blizzards* book?

*People cannot see the ground or the sky. Everything is blinding white.*

- A. moving very fast
- B. making things hard to see
- C. taking a long time

6. What does **staggers** mean in the *Blizzards* book?

*But the ground is icy. The woman staggers and then falls.*

- A. floats in the water
- B. walks smoothly and easily
- C. takes unsteady steps



## **ANSWER KEY FOR SEVERE WEATHER: BLIZZARDS**

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. C
5. B
6. C



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

## SEVERE WEATHER: DROUGHTS

1. Write a few sentences describing some of the problems a drought can cause.
2. Do you think it is worse to have too much rain or not enough rain? Why?
3. What is the definition of a drought?
  - A. when an area gets more rain than normal
  - B. when an area gets less rain than normal
  - C. when an area gets no rain for six days
4. Why may it take a long time to realize a drought is happening?
  - A. because people do not pay attention
  - B. because people like dry weather
  - C. because droughts happen slowly over time



5. What does **soak** mean in the *Droughts* book?

***But the rain falls too fast. The soil can't soak it up.***

- A. to take in water
- B. to send out water
- C. to shake back and forth

6. What does **surviving** mean in the *Droughts* book?

***Farmers can plant crops that don't need as much water. These crops are better at surviving droughts.***

- A. causing
- B. dying from
- C. living through





## **ANSWER KEY FOR SEVERE WEATHER: DROUGHTS**

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. C
5. A
6. C





5. What does **whirlwind** mean in the *Dust Storms* book?

*A dust devil is a **whirlwind** of sand or dust. It looks like a little tornado.*

- A. water that spins or swirls
- B. air that spins or swirls
- C. ice that falls from the sky

6. What does **struggled** mean in the *Dust Storms* book?

*The dust damaged crops. People **struggled** to grow food.*

- A. did something easily
- B. did something faster than usual
- C. had a hard time doing something



## **ANSWER KEY FOR SEVERE WEATHER: DUST STORMS**

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. A
5. B
6. C



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

## SEVERE WEATHER: FLOODS

1. Write a few sentences explaining what scientists can do to predict floods.
2. Would you like to live on a floodplain? Why or why not?
3. Which type of flood can be caused by high tides?
  - A. coastal flood
  - B. flash flood
  - C. river flood
4. Why are floods more common in low, flat areas?
  - A. Water can't flow over flat areas.
  - B. Water doesn't have to rise much to cover the ground.
  - C. Water levels in low, flat areas do not change.



5. What does **prepare** mean in the *Floods* book?

*People can **prepare** for floods. They may pile sandbags to block water.*

- A. to cause a flood
- B. to not know about something
- C. to get ready for something

6. What does **evacuate** mean in the *Floods* book?

*Or, people may **evacuate**. They leave an area and move to higher ground.*

- A. to stay where they are
- B. to go somewhere safe
- C. to spin in circles



## **ANSWER KEY FOR SEVERE WEATHER: FLOODS**

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. A
4. B
5. C
6. B



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

## SEVERE WEATHER: HURRICANES

1. Write a few sentences explaining where and how hurricanes form.
  
  
  
  
  
2. Would you like to work as a scientist who studies and tracks hurricanes? Why or why not?
  
  
  
  
  
3. How fast must a storm's winds go for it to be a hurricane?
  - A. 74 miles per hour (119 km/h)
  - B. 157 miles per hour (252 km/h)
  - C. 115 miles per hour (185 km/h)
  
  
4. How could heavy rain from a hurricane cause a dam to break?
  - A. A dam can't work if water touches it.
  - B. The rainwater could melt the dam's walls.
  - C. The rainwater could crack or flow over the dam's walls.





5. What does **categories** mean in the *Hurricanes* book?

*Hurricanes are often divided into five categories. They're grouped by wind speed.*

- A. times of day
- B. levels of a house
- C. groups of similar things

6. What does **structures** mean in the *Hurricanes* book?

*Some places build levees and seawalls. These structures hold back water.*

- A. things that fall from the sky
- B. things that grow from the ground
- C. things that people make or build



## **ANSWER KEY FOR SEVERE WEATHER: HURRICANES**

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. A
4. C
5. C
6. C



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

## SEVERE WEATHER: TORNADOES

1. Write a few sentences describing how tornadoes form.
2. Would you want to be a storm chaser? Why or why not?
3. Which type of alert means a tornado has been seen?
  - A. a tornado watch
  - B. a tornado warning
  - C. a tornado path
4. According to the EF scale, would an EF-2 tornado or an EF-3 tornado have faster winds?
  - A. An EF-3 tornado would have faster winds.
  - B. An EF-2 tornado would have faster winds.
  - C. Both wind speeds would be the same.



5. What does **sweeps** mean in the *Tornadoes* book?

***A tornado sweeps along the ground. It moves quickly.***

- A. uses a broom to keep things clean
- B. moves in a way that is slow and heavy
- C. moves in a way that is fast and strong

6. What does **avoid** mean in the *Tornadoes* book?

***Most people avoid tornadoes. But storm chasers try to get close.***

- A. to sit on top of something
- B. to stay away from something
- C. to go near something



## **ANSWER KEY FOR SEVERE WEATHER: TORNADOES**

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. A
5. C
6. B



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

## SEVERE WEATHER: WILDFIRES

1. Write a few sentences describing how wildfires form.
2. Would you want to be a smoke jumper? Why or why not?
3. What three things do wildfires need to burn?
  - A. heat, fuel, and oxygen
  - B. fuel, air, and water
  - C. trees, sparks, and grass
4. Why do scientists warn people about nearby wildfires?
  - A. so people can help the fires spread
  - B. so people can go closer to the fires
  - C. so people have time to get away



5. What does **scorched** mean in the *Wildfires* book?

***One huge fire scorched Wisconsin and Michigan in 1871. The fire burned several cities.***

- A. helped
- B. burned badly
- C. stayed away

6. What does **controlled** mean in the *Wildfires* book?

***Controlled burns also help. Firefighters start fires on purpose.***

- A. done by mistake
- B. wild and free
- C. limited and planned



## **ANSWER KEY FOR SEVERE WEATHER: WILDFIRES**

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. A
4. C
5. B
6. C