Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Block \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Tornado Alley**

A **tornado** is a rapidly whirling, funnel-shaped cloud that reaches down from a storm cloud to touch Earth’s surface. It is one of the most frightening and destructive types of storms on this planet. Tornadoes develop in low, heavy cumulonimbus clouds during the spring and early summer. As a warm, humid air mass moves north from the Gulf of Mexico into the Central United States and a cold, dry air mass moves south from Canada, the cooler air pushes the warmer air up creating a squall line of thunderstorms. Squall lines usually travel from the southwest to the northeast, occurring most often in “**tornado alley**”. Tornadoes occur more often in the United States than in any other country of the world.

Procedure:

1. Color the map of the United States according to the number of tornadoes that touched down between 1953-1973.
   1. **0-49 = Blue**
   2. **50-99 = Orange**
   3. **100-199 = Purple**
   4. **200-399 = Green**
   5. **Over 400 = Red**

Analysis:

1. What is a tornado? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. How do tornadoes develop? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. When do tornadoes usually occur? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. In what direction do squall lines usually travel? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Which state(s) had the **highest** occurrence of tornadoes between 1953-1973, and how many? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Which two states had the **lowest** occurrence of tornadoes between 1953-1973, and how many? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. List the states that would make up “**tornado alley**”: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Which states fall within **Zone 5: Over 400** but are **NOT** part of “tornado alley? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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