


Name: _____

J08 EXTRA PRACTICE 23



The **POWER** of nature

It's early evening and Rex Geyer and his family are eating dinner. On the TV, the weather man is telling everyone to look out for tornadoes. If a tornado hit Rex's house, it would destroy it. ¹ _____ Suddenly, Rex's brother rushes through the front door. 'Tornado! We have to go now!' he shouts. The whole family run to the car. ² _____ As they drive away to safety, two cars go past in the opposite direction – straight towards the tornado.

If anyone else drove in that direction, they'd be mad. But the people in the cars are Tim Samaras and Pat Porter who follow and study tornadoes. This year they are trying to put a 'probe' into the middle of a tornado. So far they haven't been successful. If the tornado passed over the probe, it would record a lot of useful scientific data so they are keen to try. ³ _____

As Tim and Pat drive closer, the tornado gets bigger. They put a probe on the ground and, at the last moment, they drive away. ⁴ _____ The tornado passes right over the probe and gives Tim and Pat new and exciting scientific data. Unfortunately, for Rex and his family, the news is not so good. The following day they return to their house but it's gone. Rex says, 'There was nothing left, no trees, no house, nothing.'

- a Maybe they'll be lucky this time.
- b Tornadoes travel at over two hundred miles an hour and the biggest are a kilometre wide.
- c This time it works!
- d They leave everything except for a mobile phone.