Name _____ Number Right _____ 5

Directions: *You have 4½ minutes to read the selection and answer the questions. Do not begin reading until your teacher gives the signal.*

Tornadoes

Tornadoes are the most deadly of all storms. While the strongest hurricane winds are around 150 miles per hour, tornado winds can reach up to 300 miles per hour. Because these winds often come with a twisting motion, tornadoes are called "twisters."

Tornadoes develop in the sky and reach the earth through what is called a vortex. A vortex is like a funnel. Sometimes it is described as a giant vacuum cleaner that sucks things up into the sky. Strong tornadoes have been known to even lift up automobiles and railroad cars.

One of the greatest dangers in a tornado is flying boards that have been ripped off of buildings by the violent winds. Sometimes whole buildings are torn apart by the tornado's fury.

Tornadoes are common in the midwest. In the early days of our country, people in the midwest built storm cellars. These were underground shelters where they could go during violent thunderstorms that might result in a tornado.

What should you do if caught in a tornado? Go indoors and take refuge in a closet, bathroom, or basement. Stay away from windows, doors, and outside walls. If you are outside and cannot get indoors, get out from under trees, lie down flat in a ditch and cover your head.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Circle the correct answer.

1. Tornado winds can reach the speed of ___?___.
   - **a.** 50 miles an hour
   - **b.** 100 miles an hour
   - **c.** 300 miles an hour
   - **d.** 400 miles an hour

2. Tornadoes sometimes develop from ___?___.
   - **a.** snowstorms
   - **b.** ocean currents
   - **c.** floods
   - **d.** thunderstorms

3. Tornadoes are often called "twisters" because ___?___.
   - **a.** they move in a twisting motion
   - **b.** they uproot trees
   - **c.** they are dangerous
   - **d.** they twist things out of shape

4. A vortex is like a ___?___.
   - **a.** big ball
   - **b.** a funnel
   - **c.** a flood
   - **d.** a screw

5. The best place to go during a tornado is indoors ___?___.
   - **a.** in a closet, bathroom, or basement
   - **b.** by a window
   - **c.** by an outside wall
   - **d.** upstairs

LIVEWORKSHEETS