

Tornadoes have often been popular weather phenomenons in stories. It was a tornado that dropped Dorothy into Oz in the Wizard of Oz. They are formed when warm, humid air collides with colder, dry air. When the cold air passes over the warm air, it normally causes a thunderstorm. About one in a thousand of these storms becomes a supercell storm and a fifth of these will create a tornado.

## HOW FAST CAN THEY GET?

**THE WIND CAN REACH 300 MPH**

**FASTER  
THAN A  
FORMULA 1 CAR**



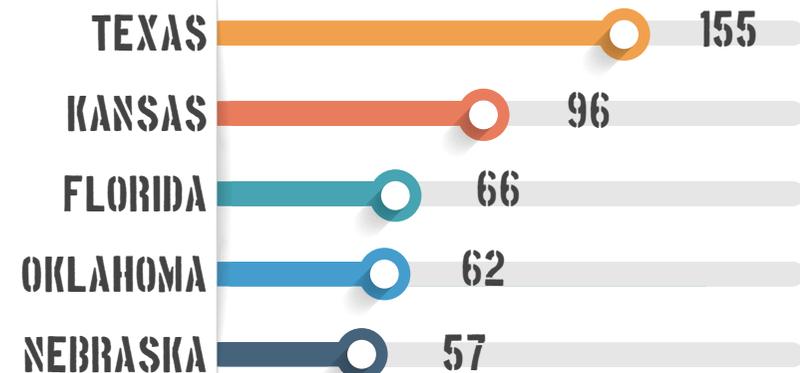
## HOW LONG DO THEY LAST?

**MOST TORNADOES LAST  
LESS THAN 10 MINUTES.  
HOWEVER, THEY CAN  
LAST OVER AN HOUR.**



The United States has significantly more tornadoes than any other country in the world. The southern states get most of their tornadoes between March and May. The northern states get most between June and August.

There are an average of 1,235 tornadoes per year in the United States. This chart shows the average number for each of the top 5 states.



On the 18th of May 1929, the Tri-State Tornado ripped through Missouri, Illinois and Indiana. It remains to this day the most devastating tornado to hit the United States of America.

The trail of destruction went on for 219 miles and left thousands of people without homes. 2,027 people were injured and 695 people lost their lives. It lasted for around 3.5 hours in total.

The most deadly tornado recorded anywhere in the world was in Bangladesh on the 26th of April, 1989. It killed nearly 1,300 people.

## RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. Where gets most of their tornadoes between June and August?
2. Which states had more tornadoes than Florida?
3. How long do most tornadoes last?
4. What is the top speed for wind inside a tornado?
5. How many people were injured in the Tri-State Tornado?

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**S**

What has to be formed before a tornado can be created?

**V**

Find a word or phrase that is a synonym for **path**.

**S**

Why was the Tri-State Tornado named this?

**V**

Which word or phrase tells you that the United States has a lot more tornadoes than anywhere else?

**E**

Which piece of information do you find easiest to access on the text? Why do you think this is?

Answers:

1. The southern states of the United States
2. Texas and Kansas
3. Less than ten minutes
4. 300 mph
5. 2,027

S: A supercell thunderstorm

V: Trail

S: Because it hit three (tri) states

V: Significantly

E: Accept any answer so long as the reasoning is linked to the layout and format of the section