

Name_____

Comparing and Contrasting Texts

Directions:

1. Read the two passages below about **tornadoes** and **hurricanes**.
2. Use the chart in **Part A** to compare and contrast important features.
3. Answer the questions in **Part B** using complete sentences.
4. In **Part C**, write two short paragraphs—one comparing, one contrasting.

Passage 1: "Tornadoes – Powerful Twisters"

Tornadoes are fast-spinning columns of air that touch both the ground and a thunderstorm cloud. They can destroy buildings, flip cars, and uproot trees. Tornadoes form quickly and usually last only a few minutes. They often occur in the central United States, in an area called "Tornado Alley." Weather scientists use special radar to try to predict when and where a tornado might hit.

Passage 2: "Hurricanes – Giant Storm Systems"

Hurricanes are huge storms that form over warm ocean water. They bring strong winds, heavy rain, and flooding. Hurricanes can last for days and affect large areas, especially along the coast. Scientists track hurricanes using satellites and issue warnings to help people prepare. Although hurricanes are slow to form, they can cause a lot of damage over time.

Part A: Compare and Contrast Chart

Feature	Tornadoes	Hurricanes
How They Form		
Speed and Duration		
Size and Area Affected		
Tools Used to Track Them		
Type of Damage		

Part B: Comprehension Questions

1. What is one way tornadoes and hurricanes are similar?

Name_____

Comparing and Contrasting Texts

2. What is one major difference between how tornadoes and hurricanes form?

3. Why is it important for scientists to track both tornadoes and hurricanes?

Part C: Short Writing

4. Write a paragraph comparing tornadoes and hurricanes. How are they alike?

5. Write a paragraph contrasting tornadoes and hurricanes. How are they different?