

Name _____



Tornadoes: Cause Analysis

Directions: Tornadoes do not happen randomly. They are triggered by certain weather patterns that work together. Read each weather scenario below and decide if it is a **Major Cause (✓)** of tornado formation or **Not a Major Cause (X)**.

(✓) or (X).

1. Warm, moist air from the Gulf of Mexico collides with cold, dry air from Canada.
2. Calm, steady winds blowing in the same direction at all heights.
3. Strong wind shear where winds blow at different speeds and directions with height.
4. Rising warm air creates powerful updrafts inside a thunderstorm.
5. A dry, hot desert day with little cloud formation.
6. A supercell thunderstorm develops with a rotating updraft.
7. A steady drizzle of light rain with no strong winds.
8. Spring and early summer when temperatures contrast sharply between north and south.

Extension Task: Circle the two conditions you think are **most important** for tornado formation. Write a 2-3 sentence explanation defending your choice.
