

Name _____

Understanding and Explaining Tornadoes

Sample Answers (student responses may vary):

1. Tornado Alley has frequent collisions of **warm, moist air from the Gulf of Mexico** and **cold, dry air from Canada**. This creates instability, and strong wind shear in the Great Plains helps storms spin into tornadoes.
2. Deserts and polar regions lack the **right mix of warm, moist air and cold, dry air**. Without this clash and enough moisture, tornadoes cannot form easily.
3. Flat land allows air masses to **move freely without barriers like mountains**. This makes it easier for supercell thunderstorms to develop and produce tornadoes.
4. Regions with **warm oceans, strong storms, and contrasting air masses**, such as parts of South America, Bangladesh, or northern India, can also experience tornadoes. These places sometimes have the same weather ingredients as Tornado Alley.