

Name _____



Tornadoes and The EF Scale

Directions: Study the chart below, which shows the Enhanced Fujita (EF) Scale used to classify tornadoes. Then answer the questions that follow.

EF Rating	Wind Speed (mph)	Typical Damage Description
EF0	65-85	Light damage: branches broken, shallow-rooted trees pushed over, minor roof damage.
EF1	86-110	Moderate damage: roof surfaces peeled off, mobile homes overturned, cars pushed off roads.
EF2	111-135	Considerable damage: roofs torn off homes, large trees snapped, cars lifted off the ground.
EF3	136-165	Severe damage: entire stories of houses destroyed, trains overturned, heavy cars lifted.
EF4	166-200	Devastating damage: well-built houses leveled, cars thrown, large debris becomes missiles.
EF5	Over 200	Incredible damage: strong houses lifted and carried away, steel-reinforced structures badly damaged.

1. Which EF category would likely push a car off the road but not lift it off the ground?
2. At what EF rating do tornadoes begin to completely destroy entire stories of houses?
3. Which EF category has the weakest wind speeds, and what type of damage does it cause?
4. A tornado lifts cars and snaps large trees. Which EF rating does this best match?
5. Why do meteorologists use the EF scale instead of only reporting wind speed? (Short answer)