

Name _____

Causes and Effects of Tornadoes Answer Key

Correct Cause-and-Effect Chain:

Warm, moist air near the surface meets cold, dry air aloft →

Strong winds from different directions create wind shear →

A rotating updraft begins inside a supercell thunderstorm →

The funnel cloud stretches downward toward the ground →

The rotating funnel touches the ground, becoming a tornado.

Sample Summary (answers will vary):

Tornadoes form when warm, moist air collides with cold, dry air high in the sky.

Wind shear causes the air to spin, and a supercell thunderstorm helps this rotation intensify. The spinning air forms a visible funnel that extends downward.

When the funnel touches the ground, it becomes a tornado, capable of causing destruction.