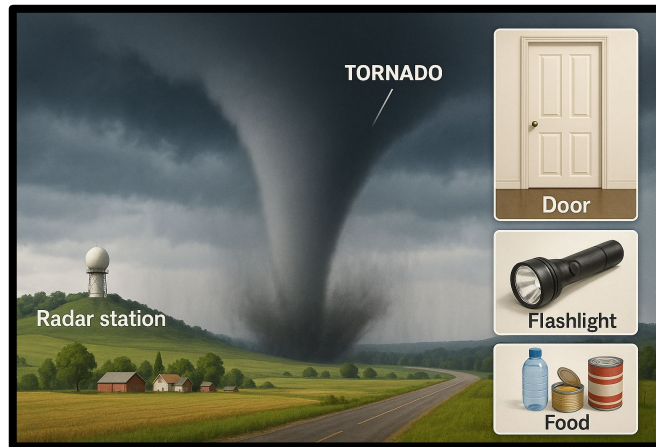


Decodable Texts: R-Controlled (er)

"This nonfiction story teaches about tornadoes. Look for 'or' words like 'storm,' 'tornado,' and 'door' as you learn about these powerful storms."



What Is a Tornado?

A tornado is a strong storm with a spinning column of air.

It forms when warm and cool air meet in a thunderstorm.

The air begins to twist and turn like a rope from the clouds to the ground.

Tornadoes move fast and can break doors, toss cars, and tear roofs.

Weather experts use radar to warn people before a storm hits.

People who live in tornado zones store water, food, and flashlights.

It's important to stay indoors and listen for alerts.

After reading the story, have your child point to and slowly sound out each practice word.

tornado

storm

door

before

before



Name: _____

What Is a Tornado?

1. What causes a tornado to form?

- A. Hot sand and snow
- B. Cool clouds and rain
- C. Warm and cool air mixing
- D. A full moon and strong wind

2. What should people do during a tornado?

- A. Go outside
- B. Open windows
- C. Hide under a table
- D. Stay indoors and listen for alerts

3. Fill in the blank:

Weather experts use radar to warn people _____ a storm hits.

4. What are two things tornadoes can do that make them dangerous?

5. Why is it important to store supplies and stay indoors?



Coaching Guide

Target Skill: or R-Controlled Vowel

Genre: Nonfiction – Earth Science / Weather

High-Frequency Words: use, who, from, for, before

Before Reading

1. This story includes “or” pattern words like *storm*, *door*, *floor*, *before*, and *important*.
 2. What do you know about tornadoes or strong storms?
 3. What’s a safe place to go if there’s a tornado warning?
-

During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support:** Blend and stretch or words like *tornado*, *door*, *before*, *floor*, and *storm*.
 2. Watch for or words that explain danger and safety steps
 3. How do weather experts help?
 4. Read the final sentence like a safety reminder to the class
-

After Reading

1. Retell how tornadoes form and what people should do
 2. Why do you think early warnings are helpful?
 3. What would you pack in a storm supply kit?
 4. Skill Check: Highlight six “or” words in the passage
 5. **Fluency Tip:** Read it again like a weather expert giving a safety lesson
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Activity Idea

Draw a tornado forming from a cloud to the ground with a radar station nearby. Label parts using or words like *storm*, *door*, *floor*, *tornado*, or *before*. Write one sentence about how to stay safe.

Coaching Tip

Weather topics build real-world readiness—phonics becomes powerful when it connects to staying informed and safe!

