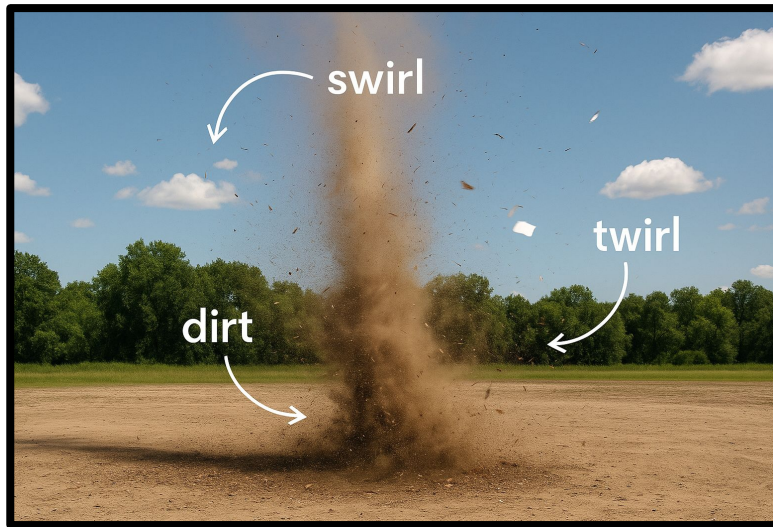


Decodable Texts: R-Controlled (ir)

"This nonfiction story explains what whirlwinds are. Watch for 'ir' pattern words like 'swirl,' 'twirl,' and 'dirt' as you learn about the wind!"



What Is a Whirlwind?

A whirlwind is fast, spinning air that swirls in a circle.

It forms when hot air and cool air meet and twist.

Whirlwinds are sometimes called dust devils or dirt twisters.

They spin up leaves, dirt, and light things like paper.

Most whirlwinds are short and do not hurt people.

But strong ones can swirl fast and lift things high.

If you see one, it's smart to stay clear!

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

swirl

twirl

dirt

whirl

first



Name: _____

What Is a Whirlwind?

1. What causes a whirlwind?

- A. Only cold air
- B. Only rain
- C. Hot and cool air twisting
- D. Snow melting

2. What are whirlwinds also called?

- A. Rain drops
- B. Wind pets
- C. Dust devils
- D. Storm sparks

3. Fill in the blank:

His sister _____ from the yard.

4. What are some things a whirlwind can pick up or move?

5. Why is it smart to stay away from a strong whirlwind?



Coaching Guide

Target Skill: ir R-Controlled Vowel

Genre: Nonfiction – Earth & Weather Science

High-Frequency Words: that, they, most, see, one

Before Reading

1. This story uses “ir” words like *whirl*, *swirl*, *dirt*, and *twirl*.
 2. Have you ever seen a small wind swirl in the air? What did it move?
 3. What do you think makes air start to spin?
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During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support:** Blend and stretch “ir” words like *twirl*, *first*, and *clear*.
 2. Watch for ir words that describe how wind moves and what it carries
 3. How does a whirlwind form?
 4. Read the final sentence as a friendly safety reminder
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After Reading

1. Retell how whirlwinds form and what they do
 2. What’s the difference between a small whirlwind and a strong one?
 3. What would you do if you saw one in your yard?
 4. Skill Check: Highlight six “ir” words in the passage
 5. **Fluency Tip:** Read it again using a windy, spinning rhythm—like the air in the story!
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Activity Idea

Draw a whirlwind with leaves and dirt flying in the air. Label parts using ir words like *dirt*, *swirl*, *twirl*, or *clear*. Write one sentence about what makes whirlwinds interesting.

Coaching Tip

Real science topics make decoding feel useful—spin up interest with fun facts and phonics!

