

**Project FOCUS
Best Lessons
FIRST GRADE**

Title of Lesson: Tornadoes

Theme: Earth/Space Science

Unit Number: 1 **Unit Title:** Weather and the Seasons

Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter code):

S1E1

S1CS4

S1CS1

Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):

Habits of Mind

- Asks questions
- Uses numbers to quantify
- Works in a group
- Uses tools to measure and view
- Looks at how parts of things are needed
- Describes and compares using physical attributes
- Observes using senses
- Draws and describes observations

Content (key terms and topics covered):

Tornadoes, weather, severe weather safety

Learning Activity (Description in Steps)

Abstract(limit 100 characters): This lesson teaches students how a tornado forms and what it looks like.

Details: Show students a large tornado in a bottle. This is made by fitting two 2-liter bottles together by their necks. One bottle is filled with blue water. Turn the bottles upside down, and watch as a tornado shape within the water appears.

Discuss the students' responses to this demonstration. Explain that today they are going to learn about tornadoes and what one should do in case one occurs.

• After discussing the answers to each of these questions, explain that students are now ready to make their own tornado in a jar. This is an activity that works well if done at tables with 4–5 students per table.

Have students fill their jars with 1/3 cup of water.

Next students add one teaspoon of salt to water.

Using a toothpick, students add one drop of liquid soap to water.

Students then need to place and tighten lid to jar.

Instruct students to shake or turn their jars in a circular motion, while holding on to the top of their jar. Students should then observe a tornado shape within their jar.

- **Make sure you conclude the activity by reviewing the properties of a tornado. I thought it was effective to have print outs of a lot of different pictures of tornadoes that I found on the internet and also pictures of the damage done by tornadoes. This could possibly be presented in a power point if you have a projector.**
- **At the end of the lesson I read a book about tornadoes that I found in the library (there are lots of them to choose from).**

Materials Needed (Type and Quantity):

Two 2-Liter empty bottles

Blue food coloring

Water

Two sided top (they have these in the science trailer)

Salt

Soap

One clear baby food jar with a lid per child

One toothpick per child

One teaspoon-sized measuring spoon per child

Notes and Tips (suggested changes, alternative methods, cautions):

Make sure you have enough little jars for each student and I would go ahead and fill them 1/3 of the way full with water ahead of time, to save the extra trouble. Then make sure you have enough salt and soap for each table to share.

Sources/References:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)