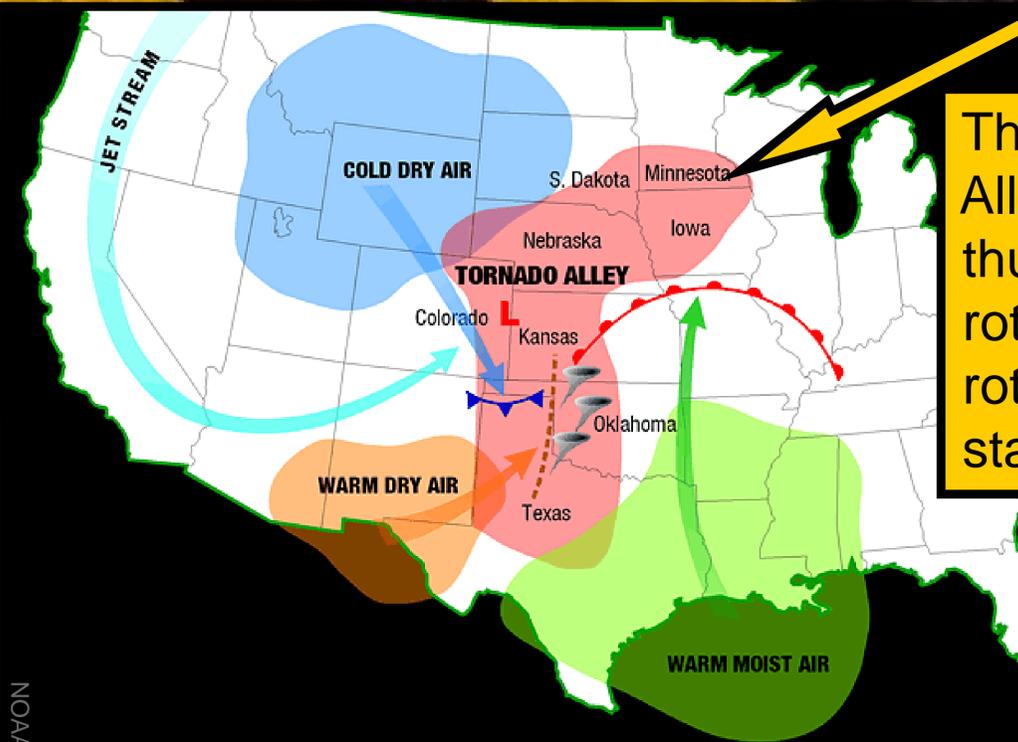
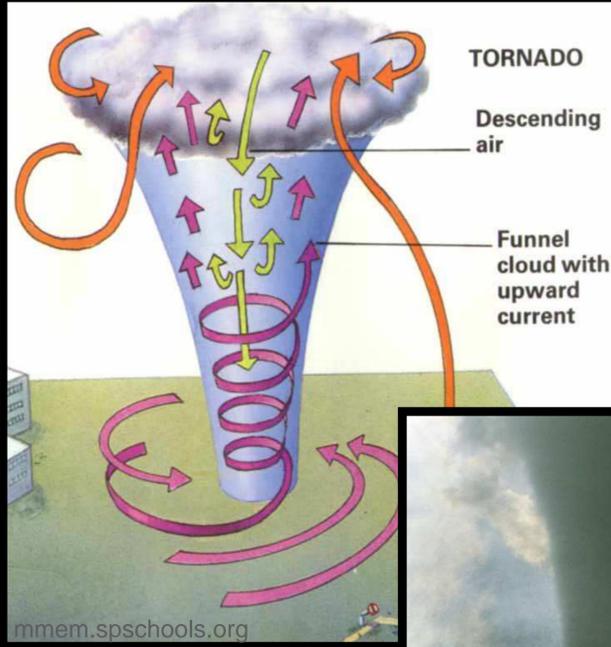
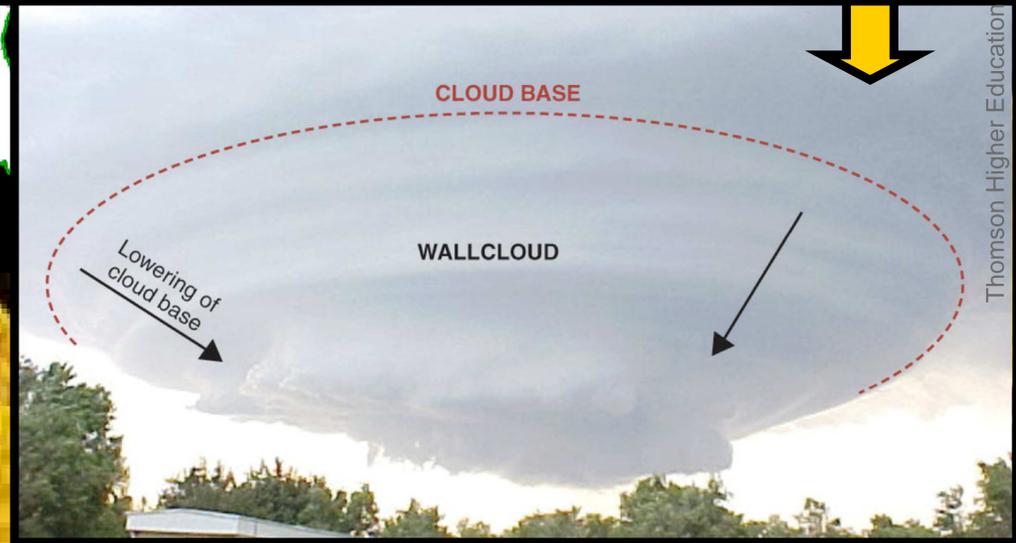


# Tornadoes

Tornadoes form all over the world, but most happen here, in "Tornado Alley" in the US.



Three different air masses meet in Tornado Alley, causing thunderstorms to form. Some thunderstorms grow very big, and begin to rotate. Once the whole thunderstorm is rotating, part of it – called a wall cloud – starts to drop downwards.



A small part of the rotating thunderstorm reaches down to the ground, forming a tornado.

There are no tornado-proof buildings. Tornadoes can destroy everything on the surface.



Hailstones often fall around tornadoes. They can be very big!

Most tornadoes have wind speeds less than 110 mph – like this British tornado.



Violent tornadoes have wind speeds over 205 mph. These tornadoes can be over half a mile wide.

