

12-9 What causes severe storms? (Pages 296-297)

Thunderstorm:

- thunder
- lightning
- heavy rain
- strong winds
- occur in spring/summer

Why do thunderstorms happen?

Cold front pushes warm, moist air to rise rapidly

What kind of cloud is associated with thunderstorms?

Cumulonimbus

What causes lightning?

Build up of charge due to temperature difference in cloud

What causes thunder?

Air molecules expand and contract as lightning passes

Tornado:

- funnel-shaped cloud that spins
- small, violent storms
- happen in spring, early summer

Why do tornadoes occur?

When a cold and warm front meet

How do tornadoes travel when they touch the ground?

Acts like giant vacuum and zigzags along

Hurricane:

- tropical storm
- looks like bands of spinning clouds
- heavy rain
- strong winds
- eye: calm, center of the storm