

Dangerous Earth | Tornado rotation | BBC Four

Dr Helen Czerski explains what creates the rotation of a tornado

Word Bank

rotation • wind direction • wind shear • updraft • supercell

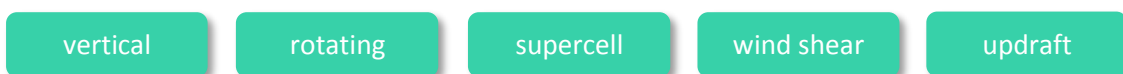
While you watch

As you watch the clip, note down the following:

- Three factors that contribute to the rotation of a tornado
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
- Two important things that Dr Helen Czerski says are not visible in the clip
 1. _____
 2. _____
- One question you would like to know the answer to, based on the clip
 1. _____

Quiz Time

Put these words in the correct spaces:



When the wind blows in different directions at different heights it is called _____.

The consequence of wind shear is that air starts _____ in a horizontal column.

_____ means air that comes up from the ground and pushes up into the storm.

When an updraft acts on rolling air it turns it into a _____ column of rotating air.

This is what starts the rotation of a _____, a storm with a rotating updraft.

Exam-style question

Explain how wind direction causes the rotation of a tropical storm.

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Dr Helen Czerski explains what creates the rotation of a tornado

Answers

While you watch

As you watch the clip, note down the following:

- Three factors that contribute to the rotation of a tornado
 1. **e.g. Wind blowing in different directions at different heights.**
 2. **e.g. Wind shear causes air to start rotating.**
 3. **e.g. Updrafts turn the rolling air into a vertical rotating column of air.**
- Two important things that Dr Helen Czerski says are not visible in the clip
 1. **The direction of the wind.**
 2. **Updrafts.**
- One question you would like to know the answer to, based on the clip
 1. _____

Quiz Time

Put these words in the correct spaces:

vertical

rotating

supercell

wind shear

updraft

When the wind blows in different directions at different heights it is called **wind shear**.

The consequence of wind shear is that air starts **rotating** in a horizontal column.

Updraft means air that comes up from the ground and pushes up into the storm.

When an updraft acts on rolling air it turns it into a **vertical** column of rotating air.

This is what starts the rotation of a **supercell**, a storm with a rotating updraft.

Exam-style question

Explain how wind direction causes the rotation of a tropical storm.