Passage Reading Level: Lexile 900

1. What happened to the town of Greensburg in 2007?
   A It was destroyed by a fire.
   B **It was destroyed by a tornado.**
   C It was destroyed by a hurricane.
   D It was destroyed by an earthquake.

2. What does this article explain?
   A how scientists use radar to track storms
   B how the town of Greensburg was rebuilt
   C how the system of tornado watches and warnings developed
   D how cool, dry air moves from the Arctic to the middle of the United States

3. Read this sentence from the article: “Kansans are used to tornadoes.”

What evidence in the article supports this statement?
   A The tornado that destroyed Greensburg was a mile wide and had winds that were moving faster than 200 miles an hour.
   B A tornado came through Greensburg and destroyed the town 20 minutes after tornado sirens went off.
   C **Kansans live in an area of the United States where a lot of tornadoes happen.**
   D “Tornado Alley” has cool, dry air from the Arctic that mixes with warm, wet air from the Gulf of Mexico.

4. What might be a reason why scientists track tornadoes?
   A to encourage more people to use radar technology
   B to warn people against living in “Tornado Alley”
   C to lower the number of tornadoes that happen every year
   D **to gather information that is used to warn people that a tornado is approaching**

5. What is the main idea of this article?
   A **Tornadoes are dangerous spinning storms, but storm tracking and a system of watches and warnings can lessen their danger.**
   B “Tornado Alley” is an area in the middle of the United States where cool, dry air mixes with warm, wet air.
   C The tornado that struck Greensburg threw cars and trucks through the air, pulled homes out of the ground, and killed 10 people.
   D Radio waves give scientists information about approaching storms by traveling from a radar unit toward a storm and then returning to the radar unit.
6. Why might the author use headings such as “How do tornadoes form?” and “How do scientists predict dangerous storms?”

   A. to make readers think more deeply about the effects of tornadoes  
   B. to suggest that there is still a lot to be learned about tornadoes  
   C. to provide information about the pictures included with the article  
   D. to help organize the information in the article

7. Select the word that best completes the sentence.

   A tornado warning saved many lives in Greensburg ___________ the town itself was destroyed.

   A. after  
   B. although  
   C. because  
   D. for example

8. What is a tornado?

   **Suggested answer:** A tornado is a swirling, funnel-shaped column of wind.

9. Explain how radar could be used to track a tornado. Support your answer with evidence from the article.

   **Suggested answer:** Responses may vary in detail but should reflect the information found in the “How do scientists predict dangerous storms?” section of the article. Radar can be used to track a tornado by sending out a radio wave from a radar unit. The wave can travel toward the tornado, bounce off any precipitation around it, and then return to the radar unit. The amount of time taken by the wave to return tells scientists how far away the storm is. By continuing to send out radio waves, scientists can track the movement of a tornado.

10. Could using radar to track a tornado help save lives? Explain why or why not, using evidence from the article.

    **Suggested answer:** Responses may vary, but the information in the text implies that radar tracking is crucial to warning people of impending tornadoes. Because radar technology allows scientists to obtain information about the formation and path of tornadoes, that information can be shared with the public. When people know that conditions are right for a tornado to form or that a tornado has been seen, they can go somewhere safe, such as a basement or storm shelter. Such was the situation in Greensburg on the night in 2007 when the tornado hit. People were alerted to the tornado 20 minutes before it arrived. The alert system “saved many lives” because it gave people time to take shelter.