Wow!

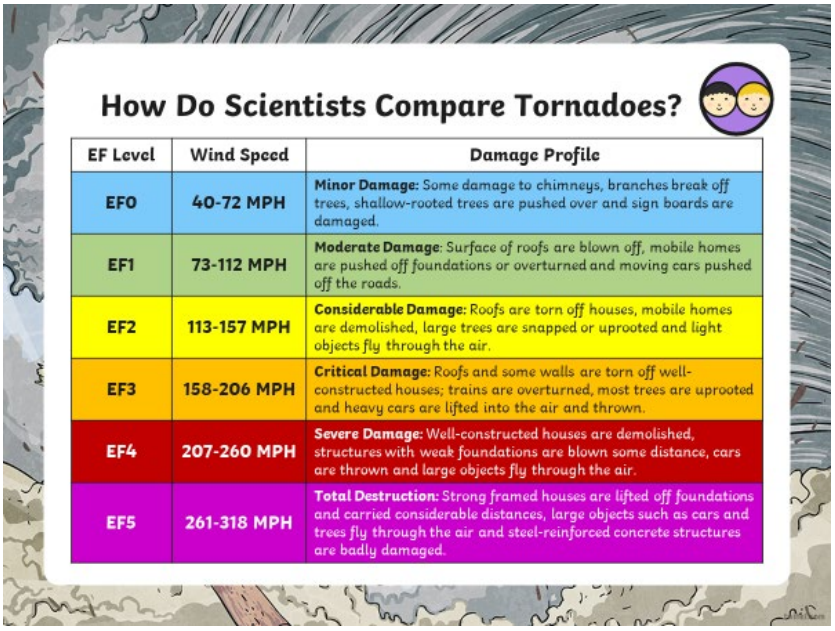
How do tornadoes form?

In Fishermen Class as part of our extreme earth topic we learnt about the causes of tornadoes.

- The winds high up near the tops of the storm clouds start rotating.
- The rotating air is called a vortex.
- More air flows in along the ground from all directions and the vortex moves downwards and becomes more narrow.
- Funnel clouds form and develop into tornadoes.

We recreated the vortex using water and glitter. We swirled the bottle at the top as it poured through a small hole into the bottle at the bottom.

We learnt about a scale that records the destruction of tornadoes.



How Do Scientists Compare Tornadoes?

EF Level	Wind Speed	Damage Profile
EF0	40-72 MPH	**Minor Damage:** Some damage to chimneys, branches break off trees, shallow-rooted trees are pushed over and sign boards are damaged.
EF1	73-112 MPH	**Moderate Damage:** Surface of roofs are blown off, mobile homes are pushed off foundations or overturned and moving cars pushed off the roads.
EF2	113-157 MPH	**Considerable Damage:** Roofs are torn off houses, mobile homes are demolished, large trees are snapped or uprooted and light objects fly through the air.
EF3	158-206 MPH	**Critical Damage:** Roofs and some walls are torn off well-constructed houses; trains are overturned, most trees are uprooted and heavy cars are lifted into the air and thrown.
EF4	207-260 MPH	**Severe Damage:** Well-constructed houses are demolished, structures with weak foundations are blown some distance, cars are thrown and large objects fly through the air.
EF5	261-318 MPH	**Total Destruction:** Strong framed houses are lifted off foundations and carried considerable distances, large objects such as cars and trees fly through the air and steel-reinforced concrete structures are badly damaged.