

# JARNADO!



## CREATING A TORNADO IN A JAR

### LESSON OVERVIEW

Wow students while teaching weather concepts by creating a tornado in a jar. You have the option of creating one for the class or for each student.

### STANDARDS

NGSS - K-ESS3-2	Ask questions to obtain information about the purpose of weather forecasting to prepare for, and respond to, severe weather.
NGSS - ESS3.B	Natural Hazards - Some kinds of severe weather are more likely than others in a given region. Weather scientists forecast severe weather so that the communities can prepare for and respond to these events. (K-ESS3-2)
NGSS - K-2-ETS1-2	Develop a simple sketch, drawing, or physical model to illustrate how the shape of an object helps it function as needed to solve a given problem.

### OBJECTIVES

- Students will construct a tornado in a jar.
- Students will observe and describe the movement of debris in the jar and compare that to the formation of a tornado.

### MATERIALS

- Canning or mayo jar
- Water
- Vinegar
- Liquid dish soap (clear works best!)
- Glitter
- Food coloring

### PROCEDURES

1. Fill the jars so they are  $\frac{3}{4}$  full of water.
2. Put a teaspoon of liquid soap in the jar.

3. Add one teaspoon of vinegar.
4. Add food coloring and glitter. The food coloring will help make the tornado more noticeable and the glitter represents debris.
5. Tighten the lid and shake to mix ingredients. To create a tornado, hold the jar and swirl in a circular motion. Students will see a small tornado form.

## DISCUSSION

Take this time to review the vocabulary and information from the story. Discuss where the vortex is and how it forms a tornado. Explain how debris (the glitter) gets picked up and becomes part of the tornado. Watch as the tornado fades away and talk about what happens to the debris.