

Name: _____

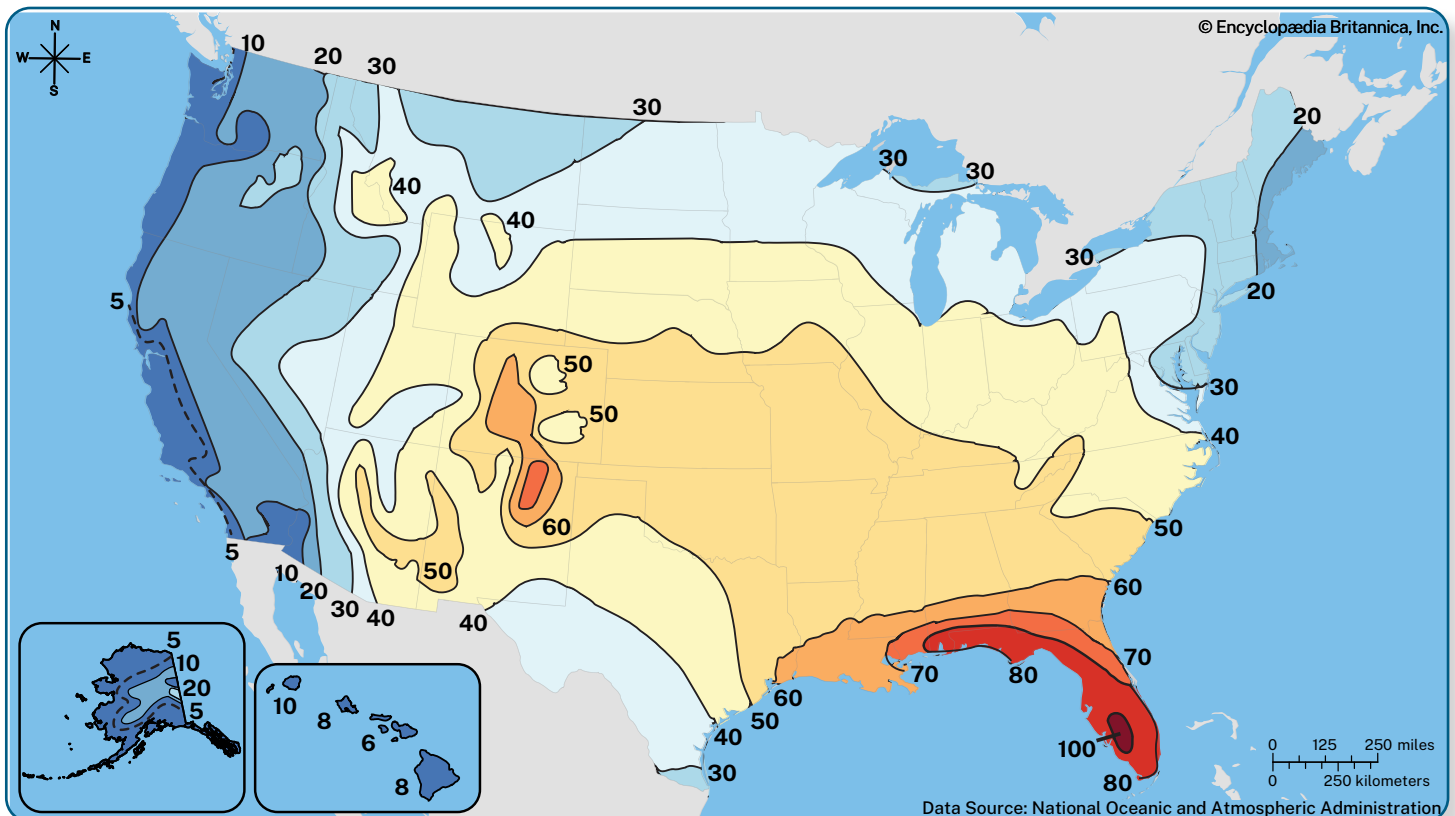
Date: _____

Severe Thunderstorms

Instructions: Read the article and examine the map to answer the questions below.

A natural disaster is an event in nature that causes damage to property and harm to humans. Natural disasters can be massive, widespread, unpredictable, and powerful. It's not always possible for everyone to be prepared in a way that completely protects people and their property. Destructive winds, hail, flooding, heat, and wildfires can harm people and buildings.

Severe thunderstorms are a specific type of natural disaster that can lead to other natural disasters, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods. Thunderstorms form when warm, moist air moves up into the atmosphere where temperatures are much colder, which can occur on land or over the ocean. The combination of warm and cold air forms very large clouds, rain, and winds. Sometimes ice forms when water droplets high in the atmosphere freeze. Additional water can freeze on the droplets and form balls of ice, which fall to the ground as hail. During thunderstorms, electrical charges build up in clouds. Lightning happens when enough charges build up and then discharge electricity, light, and heat toward the ground. The combination of rain, wind, hail, and lightning associated with severe thunderstorms can cause dangerous conditions.



Thunderstorms in the United States. This map shows the average number of days with thunderstorms each year across different parts of the United States

1. Which phrase in the passage implies a cause-and-effect relationship?
 - a. that can lead to
 - b. it's not always possible
 - c. can occur on
 - d. to be prepared
2. What is the author's purpose for including the first paragraph of this passage?
 - a. To explain how thunderstorms form
 - b. To provide details about thunderstorms
 - c. To introduce the concept of natural disasters
 - d. To summarize the information in the passage
3. What was the author's purpose for including the map?
 - a. To show the location of a variety of natural disasters
 - b. To compare the strength of thunderstorms in different locations
 - c. To identify the frequency of thunderstorms in different locations
 - d. To predict the amount of rain that results from thunderstorms in the United States
4. In the first paragraph, natural disasters are described as "massive, widespread, unpredictable, and powerful." Which of these descriptors is best supported by the information on the map?
 - a. massive
 - b. widespread
 - c. unpredictable
 - d. powerful
5. What is the main idea of paragraph two?
 - a. how thunderstorms form
 - b. what lightning is
 - c. temperatures in Earth's atmosphere
 - d. how ice forms
6. What is the meaning of the word *severe* as it is used in the title of the article "Severe Thunderstorms"?
 - a. strict
 - b. plain
 - c. bleak
 - d. intense

Severe Thunderstorms Answer Key

1. **a.** that can lead to
2. **c.** To introduce the concept of natural disasters
3. **c.** To identify the frequency of thunderstorms in different locations
4. **b.** widespread
5. **a.** how thunderstorms form
6. **d.** intense