

National Weather Service
Weather Forecast Office
Detroit/Pontiac

WEATHER TRIVIA



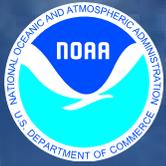
What is the average number of tornadoes per year in the state of Michigan?

A: 12

B: 16

C: 20

D: 24



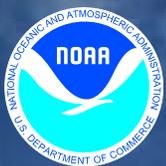
How many sides does a snowflake have?

A: 5

B: 6

C: 7

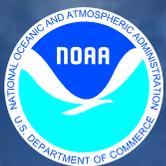
D: 8



What is the world record for 24-hour rainfall?



Answer: 73.62 inches fell on March 15, 1952 on Cilaos Island in the Indian Ocean.



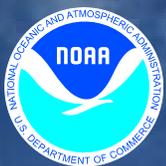
What federal department does the National Weather Service operate under?

A: U.S. Department of Commerce

B: U.S. Department of Agriculture

C: U.S. Department of the Interior

D: U.S. Department of Homeland Security



How does Doppler Radar work?



Answer: The radar first sends out a pulse of energy. It then “listens” for the signal to bounce back off of an object (raindrops, hail stones, buildings, etc.) and assigns the object a value based on how reflective it is. The time it takes for the signal to bounce back tells the radar how far away the target is. This process is then repeated, scanning at many different angles, until a 3-D snapshot of the sky is obtained.

By determining the difference in frequency (Doppler shift) between the emitted pulse and the return pulse, the radar can calculate whether the object is moving towards or away from the radar, and at what speed. This is the main advantage of Doppler Radar, as it can provide information to meteorologists about motions occurring within a thunderstorm.



How big was the largest recorded hailstone which fell in Aurora, NE on June 22, 2003?

A: 5.2 inches in diameter

B: 5.7 inches in diameter

C: 7.0 inches in diameter

D: 8.1 inches in diameter



**How many raindrops fall in a typical heavy thunderstorm?
(per square yard, assuming 1" of rain)**

A: 250,000 raindrops

B: 500,000 raindrops

C: 1,000,000 raindrops

D: 3,000,000 raindrops



Can a cricket really give an accurate estimate of the current temperature?

Answer: Surprisingly, yes!

By counting the number of cricket chirps in a 15-second period, and adding 40, you will usually get the current temperature within one degree. The accuracy rate is 75%.





Which of the following is NOT a type of wind?



A: foehn

B: williwaw

C: fata morgana

D: chinook



What is keraunophobia?

- A: the fear of lightning
- B: the fear of tornadoes
- C: the fear of water
- D: the fear of the sun



Lightning Victim's Shoe





What is the average yearly snowfall for Detroit, MI?

A: 27.0 inches

B: 33.3 inches

C: 42.6 inches

D: 61.2 inches



**Which president died in office,
in part, due to the weather?**

Answer: President William Henry Harrison took his oath of office on a chilly, cloudy and windy day, then rode his horse to and from the Capitol without a hat or overcoat. He came down with a cold that turned into pneumonia. He died one month later.



**During what month has
Southeast Michigan experienced
the most tornadoes?**

A: May

B: June

C: July

D: August



How much salt does the U.S. use each year to melt ice on roads?

A: 500,000 tons

B: 1 million tons

C: 5 million tons

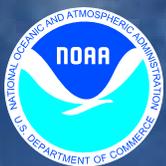
D: 10 million tons



What is the hottest temperature ever recorded?



Answer: On July 10, 1934 the temperature in Death Valley, California reached 134° F.



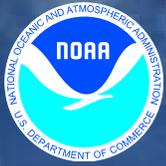
During what month do gale force winds most commonly occur on the Great Lakes?

A: October

B: November

C: January

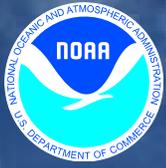
D: March



What is the snowiest location in the United States?



Answer: Stampede Pass in Washington State receives an average of 440.3 inches of snow per year.



**What hazard is responsible for
70% of Michigan weather-related
fatalities?**

A: extreme heat

B: extreme cold

C: strong winds

D: lightning



What is a fulgerite?

Answer: A fulgerite is a fossil created by lightning. It forms when a lightning bolt melts soil into a glass-like state.





How many thunderstorms, on average, are occurring on Earth at any given time?

A: 1,000

B: 2,000

C: 5,000

D: 10,000



Can the stripes on a woolly-bear caterpillar really predict the severity of the coming winter?

Answer: No.

A study at the American Museum of Natural History put this myth to rest. The myth said the severity of the coming winter could be predicted by the width of the bands. If the brown bands were wide, the winter will be mild. If the bands were narrow, the winter will be rough.





What is the average transmitted power of an NWS Doppler Radar pulse?

A: 100,000 watts

B: 250,000 watts

C: 450,000 watts

D: 600,000 watts



What was the hottest temperature recorded at Flint Bishop Airport?

A: 97 degrees

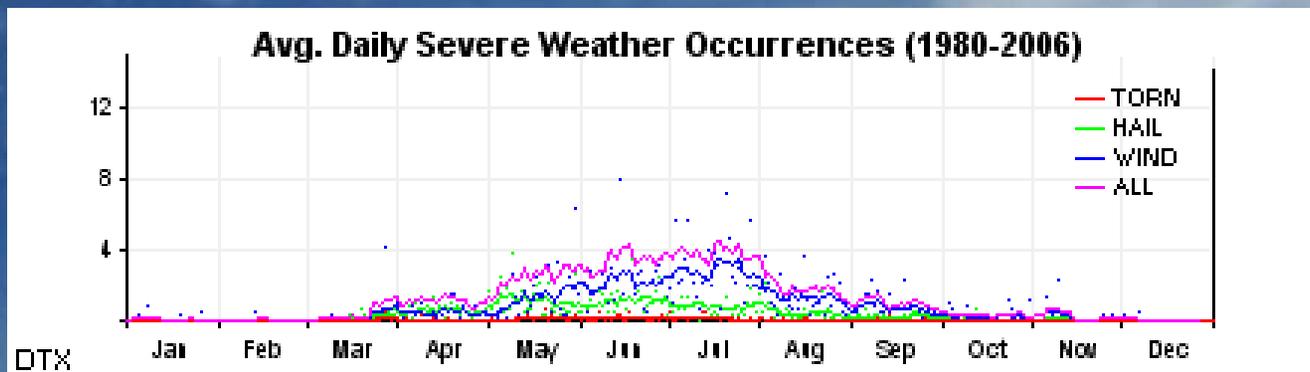
B: 101 degrees

C: 104 degrees

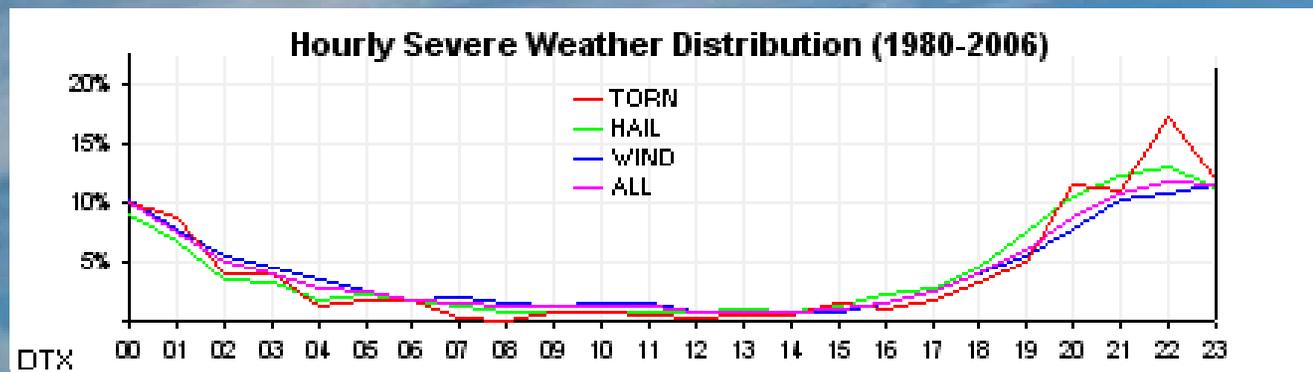
D: 108 degrees



Weather Facts



Plot of daily severe weather reports in Southeast Michigan.



Hourly severe weather reports in Southeast Michigan. Values are in percent of total, and times are in UTC (00 UTC = 7 PM EST)



What is the windiest place in the United States?

Answer: Mount Washington, New Hampshire

- **Average wind speed: 35.5 mph**
- **Highest wind recorded: 231 mph**
- **April 11-12, 1924: 24-hour average wind speed of 128 mph!**





On a weather map, an “isodrosotherm” is a line that connects points of equal _____?

- A: dew point temperature
- B: surface pressure falls
- C: relative humidity
- D: snowfall



How much energy is released in an average hurricane each day?

A: 100 million kilowatt hours

B: 1 billion kilowatt hours

C: 100 billion kilowatt hours

D: 1 trillion kilowatt hours



Weather Balloon Facts



- Released twice a day, every day
- 92 sites in the US; 900 worldwide
- Filled with hydrogen or helium
- Flight lasts for about 2 hours
- Will drift as far as 125 miles away, and rise up to 100,000 feet (20 miles)
- Instrument, called a radiosonde, is attached to measure pressure, temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and direction
- Primary source of data above the ground
- Provides valuable input for computer forecast models, local data for meteorologists to make forecasts and predict storms, and research data
- Each radiosonde contains a mailing bag with instructions. About 20% of the 75,000 radiosondes sent up each year in the US are found and returned.



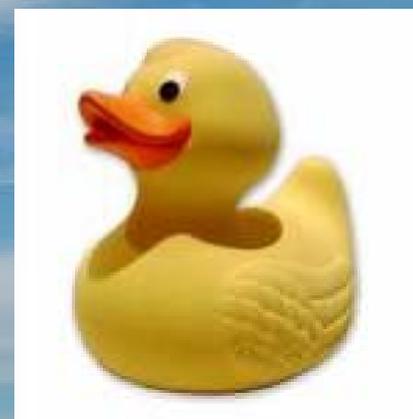


Weather Fact



In December of 1933, huge hailstones reportedly fell near Worcester, Massachusetts.

Inside of them...freshly frozen ducks.





If you suddenly and completely destroyed a 100 foot dam (filled to capacity), what is the maximum height the flood wave would be?

A: 25 feet

B: 50 feet

C: 75 feet

D: 100 feet



National Weather Service

Detroit/Pontiac

Web site: weather.gov/detroit

24-hour forecast line: 248-620-2355