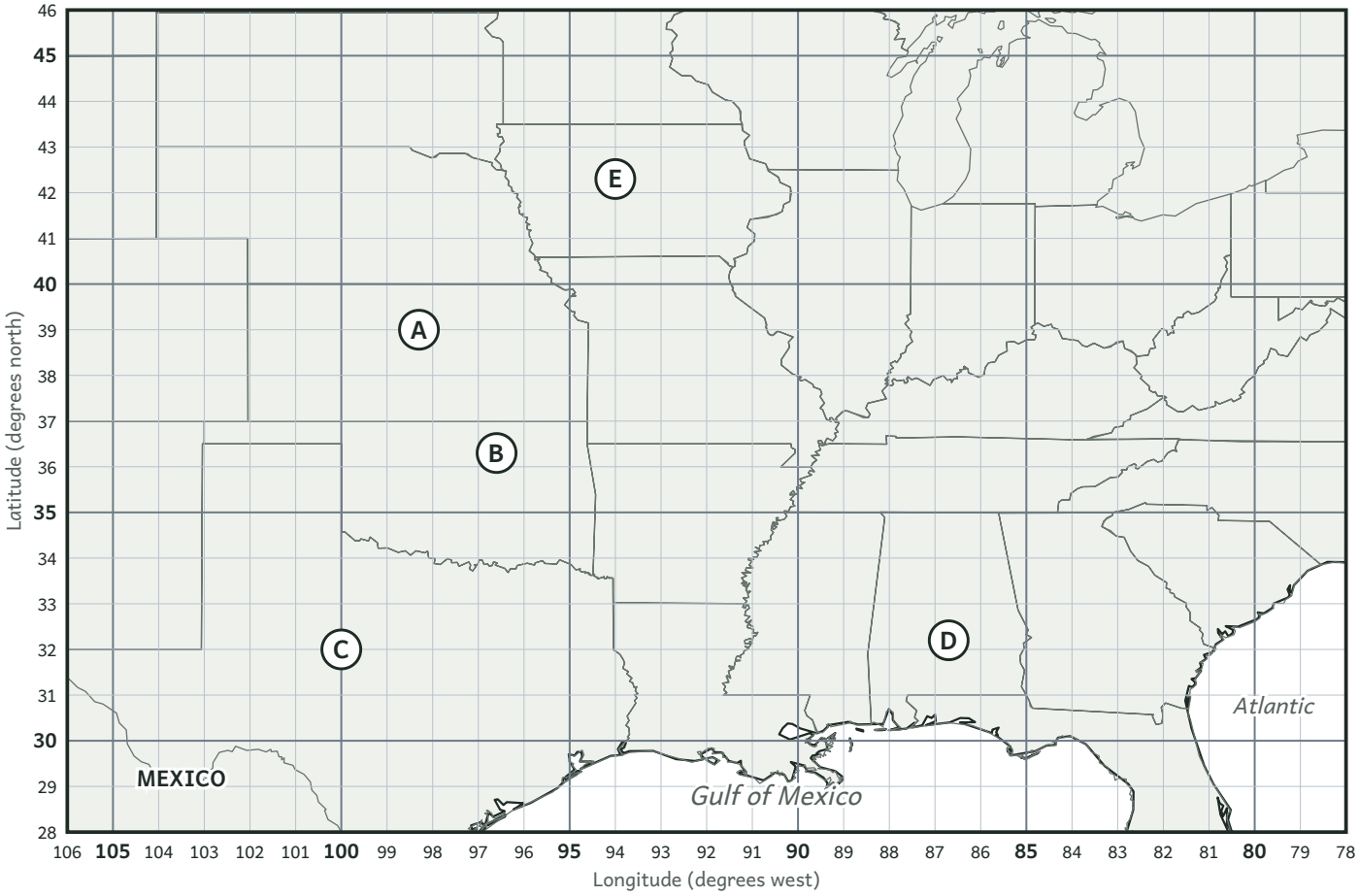
Latitude and longitude · Tornado map

Plot the Strongest Tornadoes

Name _____

1. These are all 19 of the strongest tornadoes (rated F5 or EF5) in the United States from 1990 to 2024. Find each one's latitude on the side of the map and its longitude along the bottom, and draw a dot where they meet. Write the row number beside it. A number that ends in .5 sits halfway between two lines.



	Place	Date	Lat.	Long.
1	Hesston	Mar 13, 1990	38° N	98° W
2	Goessel	Mar 13, 1990	38° N	97.5° W
3	Plainfield	Aug 28, 1990	41.5° N	88.5° W
4	Andover	Apr 26, 1991	37.5° N	97.5° W
5	Chandler	Jun 16, 1992	44° N	96° W
6	Oakfield	Jul 18, 1996	43.5° N	88.5° W
7	Jarrell	May 27, 1997	31° N	97.5° W
8	Birmingham (Oak Grove)	Apr 8, 1998	33.5° N	87.5° W
9	Lawrence County	Apr 16, 1998	35° N	88° W
10	Bridge Creek and Moore	May 3, 1999	35° N	98° W

	Place	Date	Lat.	Long.
11	Greensburg	May 4, 2007	37.5° N	99.5° W
12	Parkersburg	May 25, 2008	42.5° N	93° W
13	Philadelphia	Apr 27, 2011	33° N	89° W
14	Hackleburg	Apr 27, 2011	34° N	88° W
15	Smithville	Apr 27, 2011	34° N	88.5° W
16	Rainsville	Apr 27, 2011	34.5° N	86° W
17	Joplin	May 22, 2011	37° N	94.5° W
18	El Reno and Piedmont	May 24, 2011	35.5° N	98.5° W
19	Moore	May 20, 2013	35.5° N	97.5° W

2. Name the states. **A** _____ **B** _____ **C** _____ **D** _____ **E** _____

Word bank: Alabama · Iowa · Kansas · Oklahoma · Texas

3. Which state has the most dots? _____

4. On which day did 4 of them happen? _____

5. Draw a ring around the biggest group of dots. Which two states have most of its dots?

_____

6. Ring a second group farther east, in the South. Name two states it covers. _____

7. Did any of these tornadoes happen west of 100° W? _____

Tornadoes: NOAA Storm Prediction Center records, every F5 and EF5 tornado 1990–2024, where it touched down, rounded to the half degree.

Latitude and longitude · Tornado map · Answer key

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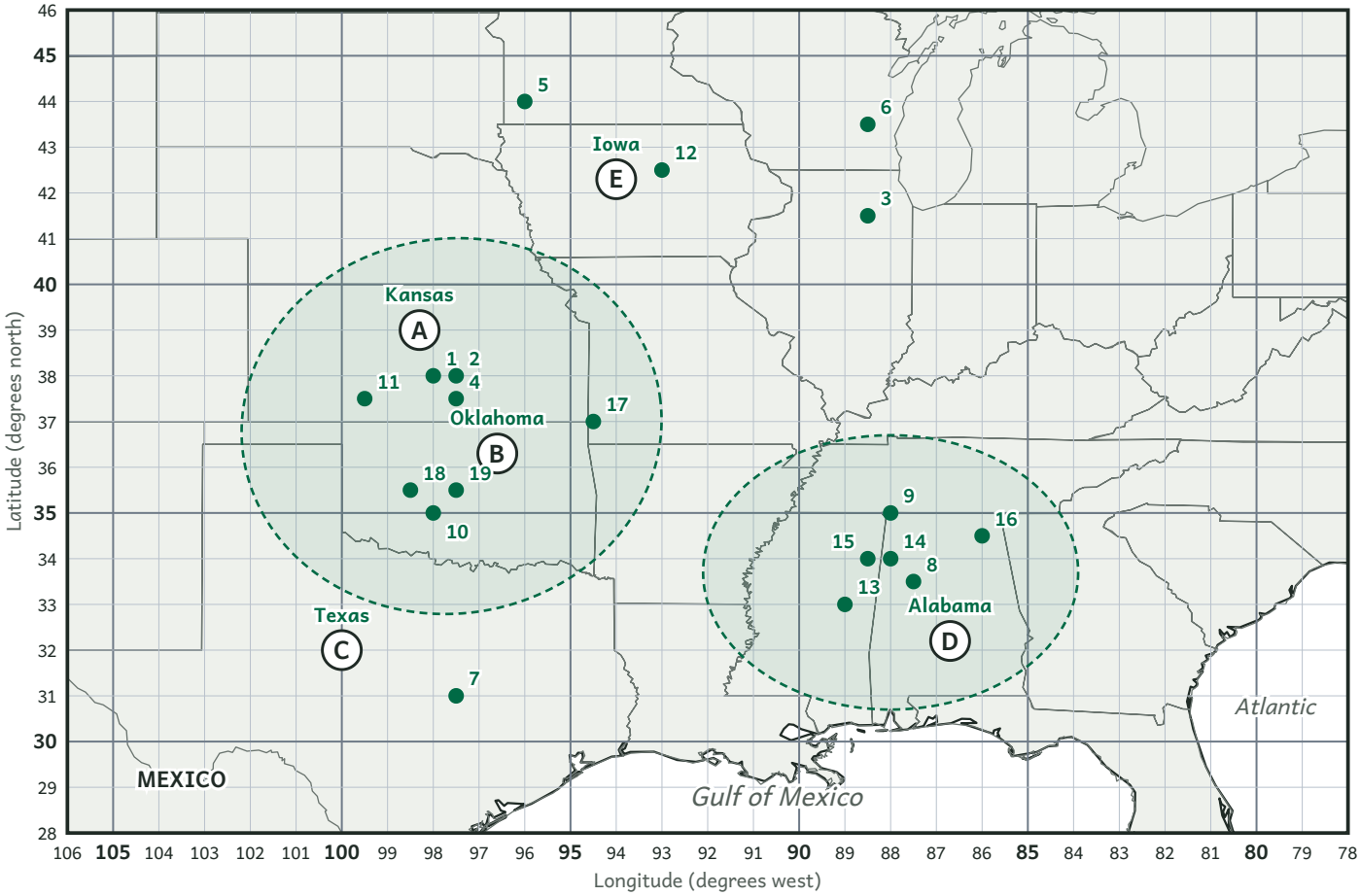

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2. Name the states. **A** **Kansas** **B** **Oklahoma** **C** **Texas** **D** **Alabama** **E** **Iowa**

Word bank: Alabama · Iowa · Kansas · Oklahoma · Texas

3. Which state has the most dots? **Kansas (4)**

4. On which day did 4 of them happen? **April 27, 2011**

5. Draw a ring around the biggest group of dots. Which two states have most of its dots? **Kansas and Oklahoma**

6. Ring a second group farther east, in the South. Name two states it covers. **Mississippi and Alabama (Tennessee too)**

7. Did any of these tornadoes happen west of 100° W? **No**

The first ring is Tornado Alley, on the flat Great Plains. The second is sometimes called Dixie Alley. West of 100° W the land rises toward the Rocky Mountains, and the warm, wet air from the Gulf of Mexico that feeds big tornadoes rarely gets there.

Tornadoes: NOAA Storm Prediction Center records, every F5 and EF5 tornado 1990–2024, where it touched down, rounded to the half degree.