Hailstorms

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Information from:
Hail by Lisa N. Burby and information about how hail is formed from pebblego.com and list of states in Hail Valley from Flash.org
How Hail is Formed

Hail starts out as water droplets in a cumulonimbus cloud. When the wind blows the droplets to a really cold part of the cloud, the droplets will freeze and hail will start to form. When it gets too heavy, the hail will fall.
Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, and Wyoming are all part of Hail Alley. Hail Alley is an area in the United States that have 8-10 hailstorms a year. The largest hailstone ever recorded landed in Kansas.
A Hailstone

Hailstones come in lots of shapes and sizes. They can be as small as a pea or as big as a grapefruit or shaped like eggs. Hailstones can have up to 25 layers of ice. Hailstones with uneven edges actually multiple small stones frozen together.
Hailstorms can happen during thunderstorms or where a tornado is starting. Hailstorms usually happen during spring and summer months. Hailstorms usually last for about fifteen minutes but some times they can last longer. Once, on June 19, 1932 there was a hailstorm that lasted two hours and 200 people died from the hailstorm.
What Hailstorms can Cause

Hailstones can fall as fast as 140 miles per hour and can be very big which makes hailstorms very dangerous. It can damage roofs, windows, and cars, badly injure or even kill people in severe hailstorms.
Fun Facts About Hail

People have found small animals such as frogs, turtles, and a fish in hailstones.

The biggest hailstone ever recorded weighed two pounds and was bigger than a basketball.

Once on August 3, 1985, it was raining in Wyoming, but then the rain turned to hail!