

Compare and Contrast Reading Comprehension: Freezing Rain, Hail, and Sleet
Name _____

Hail is large ice particles formed during violent thunderstorms. During a strong thunderstorm, water droplets are violently lifted high up into the cool atmosphere where they change to ice. The faster this “updraft” occurs, the larger the hail stones (as they are called) can be. A typical hailstone is the size of a marble or a pea, but sometimes they can be the sizes of baseballs and softballs where they cause significant damage. Hail typically occurs in warm weather.

Sleet is defined as frozen raindrops that bounce upon impact with the ground. Sleet can only form from snow. When the snow falls from the sky and through a layer of warmer air, it partially melts. As it falls, the partially melted snow then re-enters cold air and re-freezes forming an ice pellet.

Freezing Rain occurs when liquid rain falls and freezes upon contact with the ground because of ground temperatures below freezing. Freezing rain causes dangerous conditions for drivers when it accumulates on roads as drivers can easily lose control of vehicles, especially when trying to brake or slow down. Freezing rain can also accumulate on and down trees and telephone wires.

1. Which of the following do hail, sleet, and freezing rain have in common? Circle all that are true.

- A. Each is frozen
- B. Each occurs during a storm
- C. Each is typically the size of a marble or pea
- D. Each is formed during an updraft

- 2. What form of precipitation partially melts when it falls through warm air and freezes again before it hits the ground?**
- A. Freezing rain
 - B. Sleet
 - C. Hail
 - D. None of the Above
- 3. Which of the following can form during warm summer months?**
- A. Freezing rain
 - B. Sleet
 - C. Hail
 - D. None of the Above
- 4. Circle all of the following that can cause damage to property.**
- A. Freezing Rain
 - B. Sleet
 - C. Hail
 - D. None of the Above
- 5. What determines the size of a hailstone?**
- A. The season
 - B. The speed of an updraft
 - C. The location of the storm
 - D. The temperature