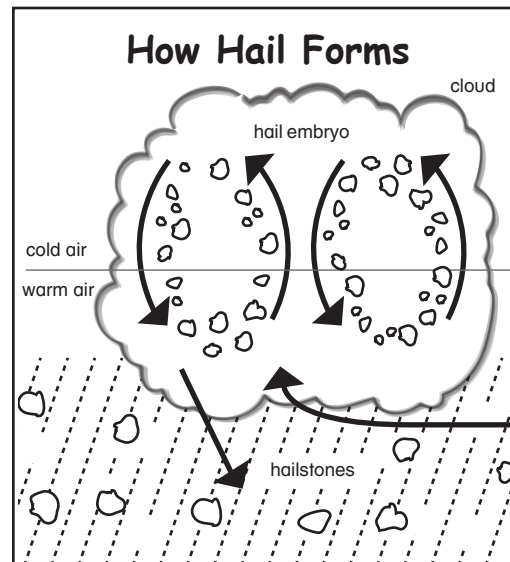


Not So Nice Ice

- ① **Hail** is a type of precipitation. It falls to the earth as lumps of ice. These lumps are called **hailstones**.
- ② Hailstones are hard. They can be round or bumpy. They can break windows and dent cars when they fall to the earth. They can also hurt crops. Some hailstones are small. They are smaller than a pea. Other hailstones are large. The biggest hailstones on record were eight inches across. That is about the size of the short side of this paper!
- ③ Why are some hailstones big while others are small? To answer that, you first need to know where and when they form. Hailstones form in the clouds during a thunderstorm. Some of the air in the thunderstorm cloud flows up. It is warm. Some of the air flows down. It is cold.
- ④ Each hailstone starts as frozen rain or snow. It is called a **hail embryo** \em-brē-ō\. First, the hail embryo falls toward the earth. Then warm air pushes it back into the clouds. The hail embryo freezes in the cold clouds. It falls toward the earth again. Sometimes the warm air knocks the embryo back up into the cold air. This cycle of falling down and going back up may happen many times. The hail embryo gets bigger each time it goes back into the cold air. Finally, the hail embryo gets too heavy for the air. It falls to the earth as a hailstone.



Read.

Write your answers on another sheet of paper.

1. What does the diagram show?
2. How does the diagram help the reader understand key ideas in the text?
3. Which paragraphs explain the key ideas shown on the diagram?
4. What does the reading tell you about hail that the diagram does not?
5. If the diagram was not included, do you think the reading would have been harder to understand or about the same? Explain.

Bonus: Why do you think the author chose to include this diagram, instead of a photo of a hailstone or table of facts?

Answer Key

Answers for 2 and 5 will vary.

1. It shows how hail forms.
- 3 paragraphs 3 and 4
4. Answers will vary but may include what hailstones look like and what kind of damage they cause.

Bonus: Answers will vary but should indicate that much of the text was about how hailstones are formed, which is what is also shown in the diagram.