

HABOOB

SAND IN THE SKY

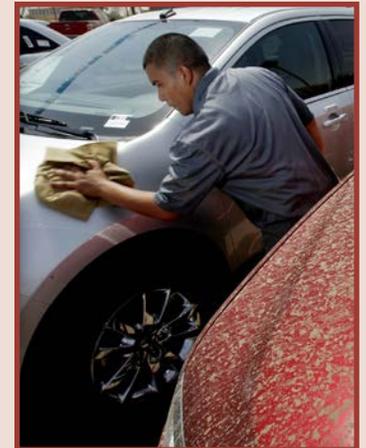
JULY 5, 2011

A giant wall of flying sand moved north toward Phoenix, Arizona. It was a haboob!

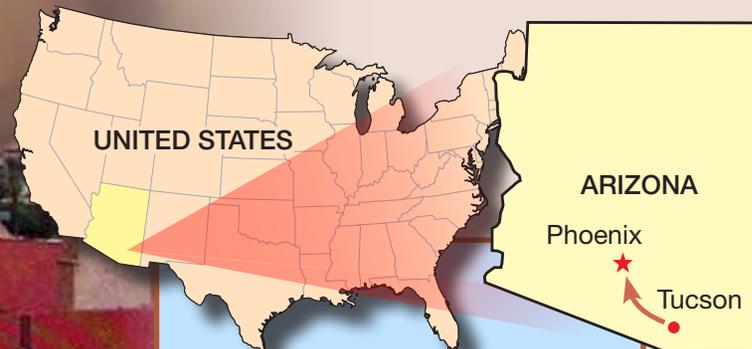
The haboob reached from the ground to the sky. It filled the air with sand and dust. The wind blew at a fast speed. It moved the haboob past the city.

Everything was covered in dust. What a mess!

This haboob was as big as a mountain. It moved as fast as a car on a highway.



The haboob lasted less than an hour. It took much longer to clean up the mess!

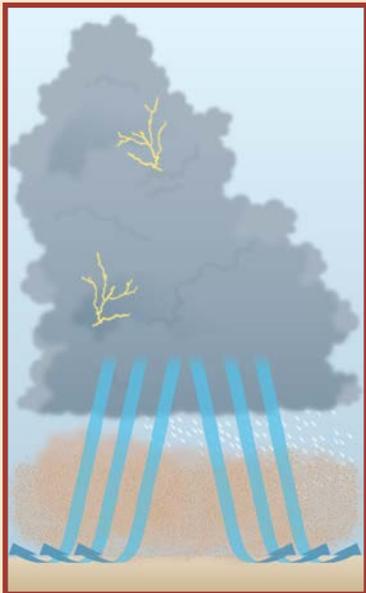


The haboob moved over 160 kilometers (100 mi.) north from Tucson to Phoenix.

What Makes a Haboob?

Haboobs are natural. They are caused by wind, which is fast-moving air. The wind hits the ground. It picks up sand and dust. Then it becomes a big brown cloud called a *haboob*.

The cloud looks like a giant wall of dust. The haboob moves in the direction of the wind. It is over when the wind speed slows down.



Haboobs happen during thunderstorms. Cold air moves from high in the sky to the ground. It moves faster than most pitchers can throw a baseball!

Think About It

Why do haboobs only happen in deserts?

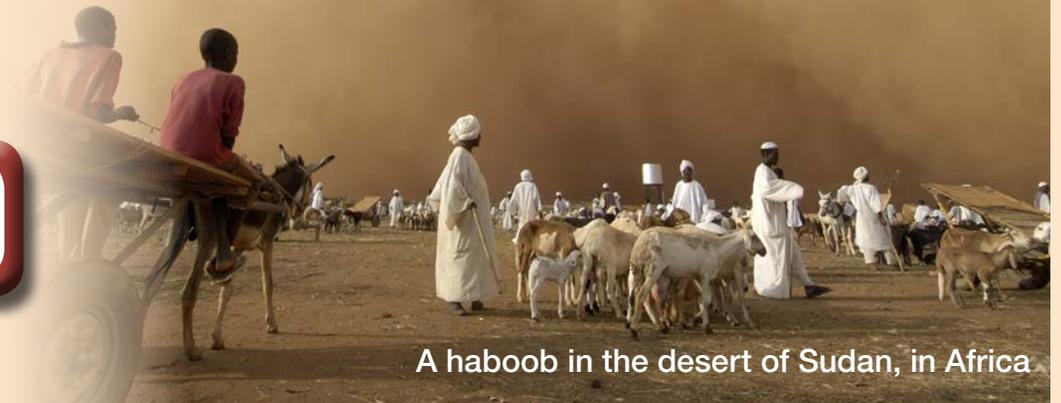
DANGEROUS DUST

Haboobs cause many car crashes. Sand and dust make it hard to see other cars. Fast winds can make trucks tip over.

Many people are hurt in haboobs every year.



Cars should pull off the road and stop when a haboob is coming.



A haboob in the desert of Sudan, in Africa