

Weird Weather: Animal Rains

Explanation: The rain of animals is a very rare weather phenomenon where flightless animals fall from the sky. It has been described many times throughout history and there are several theories about the cause. The most prominent theory began in the 1800's. It states that strong storms like tornados and waterspouts (tornadoes on the water) can pick up large numbers of animals in one location and deposit them at some distance away from their original location. Finding the animals out of place after a storm causes residents to believe that the animals have rained from the sky.

In some cases the animals are alive when they are found. Other times they do not survive the fall or only pieces of animal body parts are found. Some animals have even been found encased in balls of ice.

The tornado theory about the cause of animal rains cannot completely explain the phenomenon. In most cases of animal rain the animals that are found are from the same species. If a tornado were responsible, you would expect it to pick up and deposit a variety of animals and plants, not just one variety. Also, out of place animals have been found even after regular rainstorms that are typical in a particular area, even when no tornado occurred.

There are two scientific explanations for the Yoro fish rain. One is that the fish are collected by tornados and other strong storms from the Caribbean ocean. However, Yoro is located over a hundred kilometers from the coast and no other communities between Yoro and the ocean report the phenomenon of fish rain. Another theory is that the fish live in rivers and pools in underground caves in the Yoro region. When heavy rains come each year the caves flood and some fish are pushed out of the caves. When the rain stops, they are left on the ground where they are discovered by the local people.

With this information in mind, what theories can you give to explain the mysterious worm rains, bird rains, and blood rains that your partners described?