Weather and climate quiz - questions and answers for trivia quizzes and pub quizzes

1. Which one of these revolving weather systems is the smallest - hurricane, typhoon, tropical cyclone, tornado? **Tornado**
2. Aside of the amusing reference popularized by Frank Zappa, what is the usual cause of a large-scale 'yellow snow' weather effect seen in certain parts of the world? **Pollen**
3. What is the line on a weather chart which joins points of equal pressure? **Isobar**
4. What colour of a single rainbow is on the inside of the rainbow's arc, given the generally defined seven-colour rainbow? **Violet**
5. Who invented the mercury thermometer? Daniel Gabriel **Fahrenheit**
6. Okta is a unit of measurement of what? **Cloud cover**
7. What common term refers to the amount of water vapour that is held in the air? **Humidity**
8. Treasure Island author Robert Louis Stevenson's father was responsible for what significant weather-related invention? **The Stevenson Screen**
9. What shipping forecast area lies immediately South of Forties off the British Isles? **Dogger**
10. What common term refers to the movement of air from a high pressure to a low pressure zone? **Wind**
11. What is O₃ (O followed by the number 3, usually shown in sub-script)? **Ozone**
12. What wind speed limit applies for setting athletics sprinting and jumping records? **Two metres per second**
13. What were all girls from 1953 to 1979, and thereafter alternating boys and girls? **Names of tropical storms or hurricanes**
14. What is the circulating Atlantic ocean current which warms Western Europe? **The Gulf Stream**
15. What's the more exotic name of the 'Northern Lights' visible under certain conditions in the Northern Hemisphere night sky? **Aurora Borealis**
16. What is a haboob? **A sandstorm**
17. What is the childlike name given to the significant weather activity linked to sea temperature rise in the Pacific Ocean? **El Nino**

18. What are the narrow bands of strong winds called which move around the world between about six and twelve miles high? **Jet Streams**

19. What is the unit of measurement of wind speed? **Knot**

20. What is the 'ology' term for the study or science of the weather (that's short-term weather systems and effects, not long-term climatology)? **Meteorology**

21. What was the name of the 1992 hurricane storm which caused massive damage to the Bahamas, Florida and Louisiana? **Andrew**

22. Towards which direction (North, East, South or West) is a rainbow normally seen in the afternoon? **East**

23. What cloud term means 'sheet' or 'sheetlike' or 'layer'? **Stratus**

24. (Aside from a back and a front) how many sides or points does every snowflake have? **Six**

25. The 'Inter-tropical Convergence Zone', where the trade winds meet near the equator to produce a band of relatively very still air, which can strand sailing ships, is known more prosaically as what? **The Doldrums**

26. In the Northern hemisphere an area of low pressure produces what wind direction? **Anti-clockwise**

27. What is the most common gas in the earth's atmosphere? **Nitrogen**

28. What type of cloud is normally associated with thunderstorms? **Cumulonimbus**

29. The heaviest recorded hailstones weighed (approximately) 25gms, 100gms, 500gms or 1kg? **1kg**

30. What number does 'storm' equate to on the Beaufort Scale of wind force? **10**

31. What is minus 40 degrees Farenheit expressed as degrees Centigrade? **minus 40, the same**
   (Thanks R Partis for this excellent question.)