Name _____ Number Right _____ **6**

Directions: *You have 4½ minutes to read the selection and answer the questions. Do not begin reading until your teacher gives the signal.*

Hurricanes

Someone has likened hurricanes to huge machines that move heat from the tropics toward the poles. Erupting in gigantic waves, hurricanes reach out as far as 100 miles in all directions. When they hit shore they bring heavy rains with them and winds that destroy everything in their path.

Galveston, Texas, was the scene of one such disastrous hurricane on September 8, 1900. The city was only nine feet above sea level. The U.S. Weather Bureau reported to Galveston that a tropical storm was moving northward over Cuba. Nobody in Galveston was concerned. They were used to storms and small floods.

The Galveston Weather Bureau became alarmed, however, when the winds grew stronger and stronger. They warned people to leave their homes for higher ground.

Some people moved into brick homes in higher elevations. About four o'clock in the afternoon, the tides from the ocean and bay met. Before anyone knew what was happening, a wall of water 20 feet high swept into the city.

The swift waters together with high winds and heavy rain ripped even brick homes apart. Over 7,000 people lost their lives. Others clung to pieces of wreckage and were later rescued.

To prevent such a disaster from happening again, the residents built a sea wall facing the Gulf of Mexico. They brought in sand to make a higher, safer beach. Because of these safety measures, the next hurricane that came to Galveston did much less damage.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Circle the correct answer.

1. Hurricanes are made up of __?__.
   - **a.** high winds, huge waves, and heavy rain
   - **b.** strong winds
   - **c.** cold air
   - **d.** electrical currents

2. Galveston, Texas, was in danger because the city was __?__.
   - **a.** on a mountain
   - **b.** surrounded by a forest
   - **c.** full of rivers
   - **d.** only nine feet above sea level

3. The Weather Bureau warned the people to __?__.
   - **a.** stay in their homes
   - **b.** flee to higher ground
   - **c.** keep warm and dry
   - **d.** stock up on food

4. The wall of water that swept into the city was __?__.
   - **a.** 10 feet high
   - **b.** 10 miles high
   - **c.** 20 feet high
   - **d.** 20 miles high

5. To prevent such a tragedy from happening again, the people of Galveston __?__.
   - **a.** moved their city to higher ground
   - **b.** hired a new weather man
   - **c.** built taller houses
   - **d.** built a sea wall and brought in sand

LIVEWORKSHEETS