SCIENCE: HURRICANES

TASK 1

Listen and complete the gaps in the text.

A hurricane is a big tropical storm in the Atlantic Ocean. (There are tropical storms in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, too, but there they're called typhoons or cyclones.) Hurricanes start over the ocean, and they happen in late [1]_____ when the water is warm.

When a hurricane is photographed by a satellite, it looks like a giant doughnut. The strong winds are pulled round the centre by the rotation of the Earth. The centre of the hurricane is called 'the [2]_____'. There is no wind here.

A hurricane is formed over the ocean, but then it's blown towards the islands of the Caribbean and the coasts of Central and North America. The winds can reach over [3]_____ km/h, so hurricanes can be very dangerous.

Buildings are damaged. Trees, bridges and power lines are blown down. Every year, hundreds of people are killed by hurricanes.

One of the biggest natural disasters in US history was Hurricane Katrina in [4]_____. It broke the flood barriers along the River Mississippi and over 80% of the city of [5]_____ was flooded. Thousands of homes were destroyed and 1,836 people were killed. Another 705 people were never found. In total, Hurricane Katrina cost the USA $[6]_____ billion.

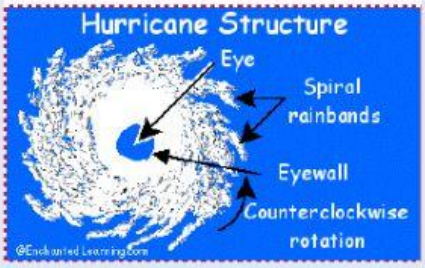
However, hurricanes and typhoons also do some good things. Over half the rain in [7]_____ is brought by typhoons.

Hurricanes are caused by heat. Scientists believe that if climate change continues, the world will get warmer and we will see [8]_____ more hurricanes each year.

TASK 2

Answer the questions.

What is the difference between a hurricane and a typhoon?



What time of the year are hurricanes formed? Why?

Why do the winds go round the centre of the hurricane?

Why are hurrcianes dangerous?

What damage did Hurricane Katrina do?

How will climate change affect hurricanes?

TASK 3 Match the sentences a-e to numbers 1-5 on the diagram.

a) An area of low pressure is created
b) The ocean is warmed by he sun.
c) As the air rises, it´s cooled. Cloudds are formed and rain is produced.
d) Warm, wet rain rises.
e) Air is sucked in by the low pressure. Strong winds are created.