

Name _____ Date _____

Natural Disasters (Hurricanes)

A hurricane, also known as a typhoon or cyclone, is a huge storm which is formed over the warm waters of the ocean. A storm becomes a hurricane when it develops wind speed of 74 mph. Hurricanes usually last for over a week and they gain strength as they travel over the warm water. Not all hurricanes make it to land, some lose strength and disappear. The others that make it to land can bring heavy rains and strong winds. Hurricanes can cause flooding, destroy buildings and trees and even loss of life. It takes millions of dollars to help rebuild a country that has been ravaged by a hurricane.

The center of the hurricane is called 'the eye of the hurricane'. This is the calmest part of the hurricane, where no wind or rain is present. The eye of the hurricane is surrounded by the 'eye wall' where the most destructive winds and rain are located. It is not safe to go outside when the eye of the hurricane is passing because at any time the eye wall could appear.

Hurricane season in the Caribbean lasts from June 1 to November 30. It is very important to prepare for hurricanes by buying canned foods, storing water and securing our homes. If there is a hurricane approaching, it is best to leave home and go to a hurricane shelter.

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What is a hurricane?
2. Give another name for a hurricane?
3. How long does a hurricane last?

4. When does a storm become a hurricane?
5. What does the word 'ravaged' paragraph 1, line 8 suggests about the
country?
6. When is hurricane season in the Caribbean?
7. Why is it important to stay indoors while the eye of the hurricane is
passing?
8. What part of speech is the word 'eye' in paragraph 2, line 11?
9. Name two things a person can do to prepare for a hurricane.
10. Why should a person go to a hurricane shelter if a hurricane is
approaching?