

Name:

Comprehension

Read the following passage carefully.

Hurricanes, cyclones and typhoons are all violent, destructive storms. They are known by these different names because they originated over different oceans. In the Atlantic and Northeast Pacific, "hurricane" is used. The same storm in the Northwest Pacific is called a "typhoon" and "cyclones" occur in the South Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Whatever they are called, they are all formed the same way, over warm ocean waters near to the equator. The heat of the sun causes the ocean water to evaporate. The evaporation of water forms clouds of warm, moist air which rises. As the warm air rises, swirls of cool air rush in to take its place. This system of clouds and winds, spins and enlarges. Fed by the warm ocean water, the storm grows as it moves over the oceans. At the centre of each storm is an area called "the eye" which is the calmest part of the storm. When the storm reaches land, it loses its fuel source and begins to die but not without doing immense damage to the land it moved over.

The initial stage of a hurricane is called a "Tropical Depression". As it intensifies, it becomes a "Tropical Storm" and then it becomes a hurricane. Hurricanes are categorised according to the speed of its

winds. They range from Category 1 to Category 5. Category 5 being the strongest with speeds greater than 252 km per hour. This hurricane can wipe out everything in its path and cause massive destruction.

Over the years each hurricane has been given a name. Using names for these storms makes it easier for researchers, meteorologists and citizens to reference and remember each different storm. For this reason, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) develops a list of names that are assigned in alphabetical order to tropical storms as they are discovered, in each hurricane season. Names can be repeated after an interval of six years. Only the names of severe storms are permanently retired from use.

The following questions are about the passage you have just read. Write the correct answer for each question in the space provided. Pay attention to your grammar and spelling

(16 Marks Total- 2marks each)

1. Write two characteristics hurricanes, cyclones and typhoons have in common.

Answer=

2. What is the difference between a hurricane and a typhoon?

Answer=

3. What characteristic of the hurricane is used to measure its strength?

Answer=

4. According to the passage, what does the word 'category' refer to?

Answer=

5. What is the "fuel source" of hurricanes?

Answer=

6. Write the stages in the development of a hurricane.

Answer =

7. Why does a hurricane die when it moves over land?

Answer=

8. Why are hurricanes named?

Answer=