

## What is a Hurricane?

Hurricanes are fierce \_\_\_\_\_ storms with heavy rains and high winds. They can \_\_\_\_\_ large areas of land with their powerful \_\_\_\_\_.

Depending on where in the world they \_\_\_\_\_, they can be called hurricanes, typhoons, or cyclones. In order to be called any of these names, their \_\_\_\_\_ have to \_\_\_\_\_ up to 74 mph(miles per hour) or more!

## The Early Storages

When areas of the \_\_\_\_\_ become warm, the air pressure drops. The clouds \_\_\_\_\_ the warm, wet air up into the sky. When this warm moist air meets \_\_\_\_\_ air above, the two begin to \_\_\_\_\_ against each other. This movement is called wind. As the wind speed increases, the storm begins to \_\_\_\_\_.

## A Hurricane Is Born

As long as the \_\_\_\_\_ remains over warm waters, the whirling mass of air \_\_\_\_\_. Once the circling winds reach 74 mph, a \_\_\_\_\_ has officially formed. The center of the storm is called the “\_\_\_\_\_. ” which can sometimes be as big as two hundred miles across! Surprisingly, the weather inside the eye is calm and \_\_\_\_\_.

## Diaster Strikes

A hurricane's power \_\_\_\_\_ when it travels over cool waters or land. However, it can cause significant \_\_\_\_\_ when it first smashes onto the coastline. \_\_\_\_\_ rains fall and cause water to flood into homes and buildings. Winds \_\_\_\_\_ the shore, \_\_\_\_\_ trees and destroying beaches. \_\_\_\_\_ are dangerous places for both animals and humans.

## Places at Highest Risk of Hurricanes

Some places are more likely to \_\_\_\_\_ hurricanes than others. This is usually because of their \_\_\_\_\_ to warmer seas. Countries like Japan and the Philippines are at high \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ from the southern Pacific Ocean. America's eastern coast \_\_\_\_\_ hurricanes from the tropical waters of the Caribbean. \_\_\_\_\_ from the Indian Ocean often \_\_\_\_\_ Australia and Indonesia.

## World's Strongest Hurricanes

Hurricanes are \_\_\_\_\_ according to the strength of their winds. Category 5 hurricanes are the strongest and fastest, \_\_\_\_\_ wind speeds of up to 252 mph. Hurricane Dean, a category 5 hurricane, \_\_\_\_\_ through the Caribbean in 2007. Its turbulent winds and flooding \_\_\_\_\_ a total of \$1.66 billion of damages. The storm took over two weeks to \_\_\_\_\_!

## The Aftermath of Hurricanes

Countries can take years to \_\_\_\_\_ from the destruction of hurricanes. People are not the only \_\_\_\_\_ to these tropical storms. There can be severe damage to crops, houses, cars, and animals.

Many \_\_\_\_\_ such as the Red Cross come to the rescue by providing \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to survivors. In the case of major hurricanes, governments of other countries sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ money.

## Warnings and Weather Reports

Hurricanes are a severe weather event. They can \_\_\_\_\_ change people's lives. \_\_\_\_\_ to satellite weather technology, hurricanes can usually be \_\_\_\_\_ before they hit land.

Warnings are \_\_\_\_\_ so families on the coast have time to find safety from the storm's life-threatening winds, rains, and floods. But sometimes even the best technology cannot \_\_\_\_\_ nature's plan.