



Name _____ Date _____

HURRICANES

Have you ever been in a hurricane? Hurricanes are serious weather storms. They can do a lot of damage. But what is a hurricane? Another name for a hurricane is a tropical cyclone. A hurricane consists of thunderstorms, torrential rains, and waves with winds up to 75 mph or higher. A hurricane is a tropical storm that starts out in the ocean and gathers speed and strength as it travels.

When the winds inside these storms reach 39 mph, they are given names. An international committee developed the list of names. Hurricanes alternate back and forth between male and female names. Giving the hurricanes names makes it easier for meteorologists to identify and track certain storms. This makes it easier to announce hurricane warnings, as well.

The best place to be during a hurricane is indoors and away from windows and doors. If the hurricane is very bad, you will probably be asked to evacuate and move to safer ground. It's important to keep a kit ready that contains fresh water, non-perishable food, first aid kit, flashlight, rain gear, and other items that would be useful if you had to leave your home for a few days.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. How fast does a tropical storm need to be moving in order to receive a name?
 - a. 25 mph
 - b. over 39 mph
 - c. 100 mph
 - d. over 76 mph
2. Where would you find the answer to the previous question?
 - a. second paragraph
 - b. third paragraph
 - c. in the title
 - d. none of the above
3. What is the definition of the word *non-perishable* as used in the passage?
 - a. long-lasting
 - b. freeze-dried
 - c. emergency
 - d. fresh



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THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

Each time you take a bite of food, your digestive system begins its work. In fact, your digestive system begins working long before you take your first bite. Any time you smell or taste or even think about something good, your body begins to form saliva, or spit. The saliva helps break down the food as you chew it in your mouth.

Your tongue helps by pushing the food back, and your teeth go to work breaking the food up into tiny pieces. The tongue sends the food back to your esophagus. The esophagus is a pipe about 10 inches long. It is a stretchy pipe that brings the food to your stomach.

Your stomach is a sack shaped in the form of the letter J. It is responsible for breaking down the food you have eaten, storing the food, and slowly emptying the liquified food into the small intestine. The stomach churns and mashes all the food together, kind of like a washing machine. The gastric juices in the stomach help break the food down. The food is then sent to the intestines.

The small intestine breaks the food down even more so that your body can absorb the nutrients and vitamins. The food then passes through the large intestine, the colon, and on through the body. Some things you can do to help your digestive system is to drink plenty of water and high fiber foods. Is all of this making you hungry?

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why is the stomach likened to a letter of the alphabet?
 - a. It is easier to learn about the stomach this way.
 - b. It explains the relationship between eating and the alphabet.
 - c. It is a mnemonic device used to memorize parts of the stomach.
 - d. It is shaped like the letter "J."
2. What is the purpose of the third paragraph?
 - a. to explain how the digestive system is measured
 - b. to explain how the body receives its nutrients
 - c. to explain how the small intestine, large intestine, and colon help digest food
 - d. to explain how the stomach works
3. Where would you read to find out about the role of saliva?
 - a. first paragraph
 - b. end of the third paragraph
 - c. second paragraph
 - d. end of the first paragraph



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THE MOON

Many of the planets in our solar systems have satellites. Satellites are objects or items that rotate around a planet. These can be manmade or they can be natural satellites. Did you know the moon is a natural satellite of the Earth? There are moons in this solar system that are larger, but it is still very big. On the other hand, the moon is smaller than the Earth. That is why objects weigh less on the moon than they do on Earth. When the astronauts traveled to the moon, they could float and bounce around because they weighed less on the moon.

The moon does not have any liquid water on it. The moon, however, does have craters, mountain ranges, and lava plains as well as other special features. The inside of the moon is made up of layers. Some of these layers are rock solid while others are molten like lava.

One thing that scientists have learned is that there is no wind on the moon. That is because there is no atmosphere on the moon. Because there is no atmosphere, there is no protection from the sun. The moon can get very hot during the day and very cold at night.

Humans have been able to see the moon since the beginning, but Galileo was the first person to look at the moon close up. He used a telescope to let him see things more closely. Galileo learned a lot of amazing things about the moon.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which paragraph explains the physical features of the moon?
 - a. first paragraph
 - b. second paragraph
 - c. third paragraph
 - d. fourth paragraph
2. What inferences can you make about the moon after reading this passage?
 - a. Unaided, humans cannot live on the moon.
 - b. The moon used to be considered one of the planets.
 - c. The moon has living organisms on it.
 - d. The moon rotates around the sun more quickly than the Earth.
3. Which statement shows the author's opinion about the moon?
 - a. Galileo learned a lot of amazing things about the moon.
 - b. Scientists have been studying the moon and its surface for years.
 - c. On the other hand, the moon is smaller than the Earth.
 - d. He used a telescope to let him see things more closely.