

SCIENCE NOTES:

Storms

A **storm** is an unusual weather disturbance. There are many kinds of storms. But **all storms** have some conditions in common.

1. All storms start when **warm, moist air rises**. The rising air **causes low air pressure** at the earth's surface.
2. Other common weather conditions include **clouds**, and **either rain, sleet, hail or snow**.
3. Storms also have **strong winds and lightning**.

A **thunderstorm** is a small local weather disturbance which can be identified by:

- * tall clouds
- * heavy rain
- * thunder
- * lightning
- Most thunderstorms form along the edges of cold fronts.

A **hurricane** is large tropical storm that is **formed in warm waters**. It has **very high winds** and **heavy rainfall**.

The **centre** of a hurricane is called the **"eye"**. This area has **calm winds**. However, the winds around the eye are very powerful.



A **tornado** is a small funnel of **quickly spinning air**. Tornadoes are **formed on land**. This is the most dangerous storm which lasts for only a few minutes.

The winds are **more powerful than** the winds of a **hurricane**. **Tornadoes** often form during **violent thunderstorms**. They are also referred to as **cyclones** and **waterspouts** depending on where they form.



cyclones



waterspouts

Safety Precautions During a Storm:

1. Remain indoors. Avoid small buildings that are isolated from other buildings.
2. Do not touch electrical outlets, telephones with cords (except for emergencies), faucets or plumbing pipes.
3. If you are out in the open, lie flat.
4. Don't take shelter under a tree.
5. Stay out of water.
6. Secure any loose objects outdoors that can become missiles.
7. Make sure you have medical supplies, canned food, water, flashlights, candles, a radio and batteries.
8. Secure your property especially those that are on the outside.