

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.