



## Hurricanes

Hurricanes are large, spiraling tropical storms. They are also called cyclones or typhoons. Hurricanes cause strong winds and very heavy rainfall. The center of a hurricane is called the "eye." This is the calmest part of the storm. The part surrounding the eye has the strongest winds and rain. Hurricanes form over warm ocean waters. The warm air above the ocean rises and sucks in the air around it. This air becomes warm and rises again, leading to a continuous cycle. This cycle forms clouds and leads to a hurricane.

Most hurricanes remain at sea and are harmless. However, a hurricane that passes over land can be dangerous. Sometimes, the high-speed winds of the hurricane create huge waves that can cause a lot of damage on land. These waves are called a storm surge. Another danger of hurricanes is the heavy rainfall. It can cause floods and landslides. Hurricanes are sorted into five categories, depending on their strength. Category 5 hurricanes are considered the most destructive. However, all kinds of hurricanes can cause major harm to human life and property.

Hurricanes are natural disasters. This means that they cannot be stopped from happening. Most governments educate people about what they can do when a hurricane hits. In the United States, the National Weather Service is always informing people about storms and hurricanes. The government also hands out information on preparing for hurricanes. People can prepare for hurricanes in different ways. They should find out where the nearest hurricane shelters are. They should gather emergency supplies, like flashlights and first-aid kits. People should also participate in emergency drills. Staying prepared in the event of a hurricane can help save lives.

**1. Part A - What is the main idea of this passage?**

- a. Hurricanes are natural disasters
- b. Most hurricanes remain at sea and are harmless.
- c. Hurricanes passing over the land can be dangerous so people need to prepare for a hurricane to stay safe.
- d. Hurricanes form over warm ocean waters.

**2. Part B - Which two sentences support the main ideas in the passage?**

- a. People should work alone when a hurricane strikes.
- b. Sometimes, the high-speed winds of the hurricane create huge waves that can cause a lot of damage on land.
- c. Hurricanes are formed over land.
- d. Hurricanes can most often stay at sea.
- e. People should also participate in emergency drills

**3. Part C - Why did you select the supporting details in Part B?**