

Hurricane Season



photo courtesy NOAA

According to the National Hurricane Center, the season for these sometimes dangerous storms runs from June 1 to Nov. 30 in the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico. This week, The Mini Page learns more about hurricanes.

Making a hurricane

These storms need the following elements to form:

- higher than normal **atmospheric pressure** above the forming storm. (Atmospheric pressure is the pounds of air per square inch.)
- warm ocean waters (at least 80 degrees).
- moisture from the evaporating warm waters.
- warm rising air.
- winds meeting at the surface of the ocean.

• winds blowing mostly from the same direction at the same speed and height.

• a wind that blows so it makes the air go in circles and spiral inward.

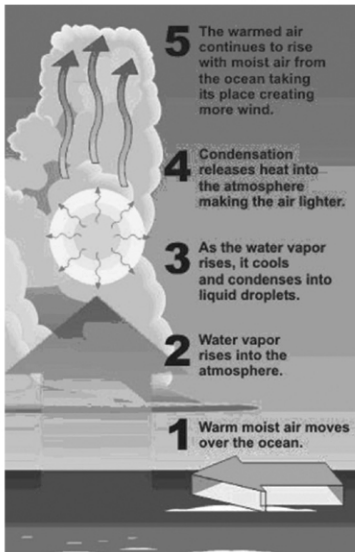


Image courtesy NWS



photo courtesy NIH

Hurricane stages

Weather experts carefully watch the development of storms over the ocean. They have given each stage a name, depending on the strength of the winds.

1. **Tropical depression:** Clouds and thunderstorms swirl in a circle with winds of up to 38 mph.
2. **Tropical storm:** Swirling winds reach 39 to 73 mph.
3. **Hurricane:** Winds reach at least 74 mph.

A hurricane brings:

- **Storm surges**, huge domes of water that might stretch as wide as 100 miles and be as high as 25 feet when they reach land. This is the most dangerous part of a hurricane.
- **High winds** destroy mobile homes and can damage buildings. As a hurricane moves inland, the winds can keep blowing and cause damage hundreds of miles from shore.
- **Heavy rain and floods** along the shore and inland.
- **Tornadoes** that add to the wind and rain damage.

Hurricane safety

- If you live near an ocean, make a **hurricane plan** with your family members.
- A hurricane **watch** means that one is possible within 36 hours. A hurricane **warning** means that one is expected within 24 hours.
- **Evacuate** immediately if you are told to leave. Have plenty of gas in the car.
- Bring in lawn furniture, garbage cans and loose objects.
- Take your pet with you if you can. If you can't, leave out water and food.

Hurricane names

Hurricanes are given names so that we can keep track of them. When a hurricane forms, weather experts call it by a name from a special list. The names go in ABC order. There is one name for each letter except Q, U, X, Y and Z.

This year's names are:

Arthur	Laura
Bertha	Marco
Cristobal	Nana
Dolly	Omar
Edouard	Paulette
Fay	Rene
Gonzalo	Sally
Hanna	Teddy
Isaias	Vicky
Josephine	Wilfred
Kyle	

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/MPhurricane
- scijinks.gov/hurricane/

At the library:

- "Hurricanes!" by Gail Gibbons
- "Eye of the Storm: NASA, Drones and the Race to Crack the Hurricane Code" by Amy Cherrix

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of hurricanes are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

ATMOSPHERE,
DEPRESSION, EVACUATE,
FLOOD, HURRICANE,
NAMES, OCEAN, PLAN,
PRESSURE, RAIN,
SEASON, STORM,
SURFACE, SURGE,
TORNADO, TROPICAL,
WARM, WARNING,
WATCH, WIND.

N	A	E	C	O	I	U	T	S	S	S	E	M	A	N
V	J	R	D	E	P	R	E	S	S	I	O	N	D	A
O	F	W	A	R	M	A	T	R	O	P	I	C	A	L
S	Q	P	R	E	S	S	U	R	E	A	P	D	H	P
U	J	C	N	O	A	T	M	O	S	P	H	E	R	E
R	F	S	N	E	V	A	C	U	A	T	E	D	A	G
F	L	O	D	A	N	R	O	T	W	A	T	C	H	Q
A	O	W	A	R	N	I	N	G	U	N	I	A	R	W
C	O	W	I	N	D	H	U	R	R	I	C	A	N	E
E	D	M	E	G	R	U	S	T	O	R	M	V	A	U



Mini Jokes



Harry: What did one hurricane say to the other?
Heather: "I have my eye on you!"

Eco Note



Why do most hurricanes take place in the summer or autumn? It's because all the necessary ingredients are present to create such a storm: warm ocean waters, a warm lower atmosphere, and spin in the ocean waves. While the sun is hottest in late June in the Northern Hemisphere, it takes ocean water several more weeks to reach its warmest temperatures. That's why hurricane season continues through November.

adapted from NOAA

For later:

Look in your newspaper for weather reports. Are there hurricanes or typhoons happening anywhere in the world?

Teachers: Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!

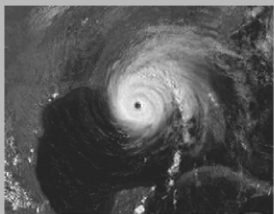


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ROOTONYM®

by Jan & Carey Orr Cook



Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

1. To make or get ready for something (7-letter verb)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

2. Able or likely to cause harmful injury (9-letter adjective)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

3. A place where you stay protected (7-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

4. Overflowing waters on streets and near homes (8-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

1. Matt will _____ for the hurricane by boarding up windows.
2. Strong winds make for _____ travel on roads.
3. In bad weather, Julie goes to a _____ in her basement.
4. Heavy rains caused _____ in many areas near the river.