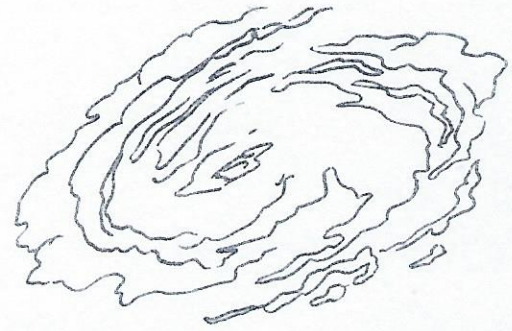


HURRICANES

Day 1



Hurricanes are violent windstorms with a circular movement that carry with them huge amounts of rain. They cause more damage than all other kinds of storms. They form in the warm-water areas of the Atlantic Ocean.

A hurricane begins in a low-pressure area over warm water. Air is pulled inward by the low pressure. Wind begins to rotate counterclockwise. As pressure drops near the center, wind speed increases. It pulls moist air from the ocean's surface. The moist air spirals upward in the center. The air cools and rainstorms form. This pattern continues as the storm feeds on itself, growing stronger and higher. When the wind speed is greater than 73 m.p.h., it is a hurricane. A column of calm, warm, cloudless air forms in the center. It is the eye of the storm.

A hurricane can become 10 miles high and 200 miles wide. It travels across the ocean at various speeds. It might change direction several times. That is why it is hard to know when and where it will strike land. It weakens rapidly as it passes over land.

Hurricanes are rated by categories, depending on their wind speeds. Category 1 means winds are 74-95 m.p.h. The highest category is 5. This means the winds are moving faster than 155 m.p.h. The higher the category, the more damage it causes.

Hurricanes are given names so weather people can tell them apart when there are more than one over the ocean. On August 17, 1969, Hurricane Camille struck Mississippi and Louisiana. It was a Category 5. It caused millions of dollars in damage and 256 people died.

HURRICANES

Answer the questions.

1. In what pattern do hurricane winds move? _____
 2. Where do hurricanes form? _____
 3. In what direction does the wind rotate? _____
 4. What happens when moist air in the center cools? _____
 5. When does the storm become a hurricane? _____
 6. Describe the eye of a hurricane. _____

 7. Hurricanes can become how big? _____
 8. Why is it hard to tell where a hurricane might strike land? _____

 9. What happens when a hurricane reaches land? _____
 10. Hurricane wind speeds are rated by what? _____
 11. What is the wind speed of a category I hurricane? _____
 12. Why are hurricanes given names? _____

 13. What happened on August 17, 1969? _____

- It was rated at what category? _____

Research: The worst hurricane for number of deaths in the United States happened in 1900. Where did it strike and how many people died? Use an almanac to find the answer.