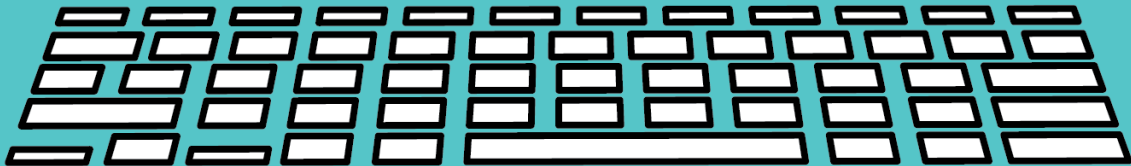


Short Answer	Type Answer Here
1. What is the center of a hurricane called?	
2. What month starts the Atlantic ocean hurricane season?	
3. How many years until a name can be repeated?	
4. What year did the largest hurricane occur?	
5. What are hurricanes in the Indian ocean called?	
6. What month does hurricane season end in the Atlantic?	
7. What's the term for the most destructive part of a hurricane?	
8. What was the full name of the largest hurricane?	



Short Answer	Type Answer Here	Fill in the Blank	Type Answer Here
1. What is the center of a hurricane called?		9. In Southeast Asia, they are called "_____".	
2. What month starts the Atlantic hurricane season?		10. The World _____ Organization names the hurricanes.	
3. How many sea until a name can be repeated?		11. Hurricanes can have wind speeds over _____ miles per hour.	
4. What year did the largest hurricane occur?		12. From 1972 to 1978, hurricanes were only given _____ names.	
5. What are hurricanes in the Indian ocean called?		13. The SSWHW classifies hurricanes on _____ from _____.	
6. What month does hurricane season end in the Atlantic?		14. _____ has winds 111 to 130 miles per hour.	
7. What's the term for the most destructive part of a hurricane?		15. In the southern hemisphere hurricanes rotate _____.	
8. What was the full name of the largest hurricane?		16. _____ ocean waters help hurricanes gather energy.	



HURRICANES

A hurricane, also known as a tropical cyclone, is a large rotating storm over the warm ocean waters in tropical areas. It is a circular air movement that creates strong winds and heavy rains. Hurricanes can last days or even weeks before they reach the ocean.

The difference between a hurricane, typhoon, and a cyclone is the geographic location of the storm. In North America and the Caribbean, they are called "hurricanes." In the western Pacific, they are called "typhoons," and in the Indian Ocean, they are called "cyclones."

In the northern hemisphere, hurricanes rotate counterclockwise, but rotate clockwise in the southern hemisphere. This is based on the Coriolis effect, due to the rotation of the Earth.

Before being labeled as a hurricane, a tropical cyclone must go through three stages (tropical disturbance, tropical depression, and tropical storm). Once classified as a hurricane, they have the potential to reach wind speeds of over 160 miles an hour. Once a hurricane reaches land, it will begin to lose energy.

An area of low air pressure in the center of a hurricane is called the eye. Hurricanes rotate counterclockwise around the eye of a storm. The eye of the hurricane is typically calm with no clouds.

The heavy rotating storm clouds around the hurricane's eye create an "eyewall." The "eyewall" is the most destructive part of a hurricane. The eyewall winds can reach speeds of 160 miles per hour.

Hurricanes form when warm moist air over the tropics is replaced by cooler air. As the cooler air warms it will start to rise, creating large storm clouds. Above the storm, winds flow outward allowing the air below to rise. Warm ocean waters help hurricanes gather energy. Most hurricanes remain at sea but some pass over land causing massive amounts of damage.

When hurricanes reach land, the heavy rain, high winds and strong waves can damage buildings, cars and trees. The strong waves and rising ocean levels are called storm surge. Most of the damage is

caused by flooding and storm surge. Hurricanes can also develop several small tornadoes.

The Atlantic Ocean hurricane season begins June 1st and ends November 30th each year. A typical hurricane season averages five to six hurricanes per year.

New technology has allowed scientists to track the storm and predict the path of a hurricane. Computer models also allow forecasters to predict the amount of storm surge that will affect a coastal area. This allows residents to prepare for the storm and/or evacuate the area. Hurricanes can be tracked by weather satellites and weather radar.

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale (SSHWS) classifies hurricanes on a scale of 1 to 5. Scale levels are based on wind speeds, potential damage and flooding.

- Category One — Winds 74-95 miles per hour
- Category Two — Winds 96-110 miles per hour
- Category Three — Winds 111-130 miles per hour
- Category Four — Winds 131-155 miles per hour
- Category Five — Winds greater than 155 miles per hour

The World Meteorological Organization names the hurricanes. It uses different sets of names around the world. On the part of the world the storm is located in, names are given to hurricanes to help identify and track them as they move across the ocean from 1953 to 1978. Hurricanes were given female names. Now, names are rotated between boy names and girl names.

Letters Q, U, X, Y, and Z are not used when naming hurricanes. The names are repeated after six years. Sometimes hurricane names are "retired" if the hurricane was major and extremely destructive. Some retired hurricane names include Katrina, Andrew and Mitch.

The naming of hurricanes began in the 1950s. The largest hurricane on record is Typhoon Tip, which occurred in 1979 in the northwest Pacific. It was almost half the size of the United States!

© 2008 TKS

© 2008 TKS

