

Spinning Storms

Storm Season

A hurricane is a big storm.



Daniel Aguilar/Reuters/Landov

Hurricane season is here! The season lasts from June to November. A hurricane is a storm that brings heavy rain and strong winds. It can harm trees and homes.



Joe Raedle/Getty Images

A scientist uses a computer to track a hurricane.

A hurricane begins over warm ocean water. Winds make the storm spin around and around. The center of the storm is called the **eye**. It is calm there.



Tom Mihalek/epa/Corbis

Hurricanes often hit places near the **coast**. A coast is land next to the ocean. A hurricane can cause big ocean waves. The waves are called a **storm surge**. That can cause flooding.

People Can Stay Safe



Picture Partners/Alamy

Follow these tips to stay safe during a hurricane.

- Stay indoors. Don't go near windows.
- Check weather reports.
- Make sure you have water and food to last three days.

How can you get ready for a hurricane?

You can pack a safety kit with water, a radio, a flashlight, batteries, blankets, and food.



*Can: Carsten Reisingen Reisinger/Shutterstock;
batteries and blanket: SuperStock; flashlight and
radio: Jupiter Images; water bottle: Getty Images*

Name: _____

Date: _____

Directions: Answer the following four questions based on the information in the passage.

1. Describe what a hurricane is.

2. Where do most hurricanes hit land?

3. One safety tip from the article is to stay away from windows. Why should you stay away from windows in a hurricane?

4. What is this passage mostly about?

Directions: Please read the sentence below and then write the word or phrase that best answers the questions. The first answer has been provided for you.

From June to November, hurricanes may cause destruction with heavy rain and winds.

What? hurricanes

5. (may) What?

6. When?

7. How?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Hurricanes form over the ocean, _____ they often hit places on a coast.

- A but
- B because
- C so

Directions: Read the vocabulary word and definition below. Then answer questions 9 and 10.

Vocabulary Word: **storm** (storm): very bad weather with rain, thunder, lightning, or snow.

9. Read the sentences below and underline all forms of the word **storm**.
- a. Right before the fireworks started, we heard thunder and saw lighting. A bad storm began, and we had to wait until it was over to watch the fireworks.
 - b. There was a tropical storm warning for people living in Florida, so they started preparing for bad weather.
 - c. When the storm hit the town, there was a lot of heavy rain.
 - d. The family turned their sailboat around when the radio said that a bad storm was heading their way.
 - e. During the spring, a lot of storms bring heavy rain.
10. Which object would you probably NOT need in a storm?



Teacher Guide and Answer Key

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 410

Featured Text Structure: Descriptive – the writer explains, defines, or illustrates a concept or topic

Passage Summary: The passage describes what a hurricane is and the damage it can cause. The article also offers tips on staying safe during a hurricane.

To the Teacher: Read the passage aloud to the class [TIP: while reading aloud, show the passage on a whiteboard or give all students a copy of the passage so that they can follow along].

Then, use the text-dependent questions 1-8 to facilitate a whole class discussion to ensure students comprehend the key details from the passage.

Finally, use questions 9-10 to deep-teach one important vocabulary word [TIP: you can use the model provided for teaching additional vocabulary].

1. Describe what a hurricane is. [Important Detail]

Suggested answer: A hurricane is a storm that brings heavy rain and strong winds. The majority of hurricanes occur between June and November. Hurricanes can cause a lot of harm to trees and homes. [paragraphs 1, 2]

2. Where do most hurricanes hit land? [Important Detail]

Suggested answer: Most hurricanes hit places near the coast. A hurricane can cause large ocean waves and flooding around the coast. [paragraph 3]

3. One safety tip from the article is to stay away from windows. Why should you stay away from windows in a hurricane? [Inferential]

Suggested answer: Hurricanes bring heavy rains and strong winds that can harm trees and homes. The strong winds could break windows, so you do not want to be near a window during a hurricane. [paragraphs 1, 4]

4. What is this passage mostly about? [Main Idea]

Suggested answer: The article is mainly about what hurricanes are and the

damage they can cause. The article also provides information about how to get ready for a hurricane and how to stay safe during a hurricane.

Directions: Please read the sentence below and then write the word or phrase that best answers the questions. The first answer has been provided for you.

From June to November, hurricanes may cause destruction with heavy rain and winds.

What? hurricanes

5. (may) What? **cause destruction**

6. When? **from June to November**

7. How? **with heavy rain and winds**

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Hurricanes form over the ocean, _____ they often hit places on a coast.

A but

B because

C so

To the Teacher: ReadWorks recommends that you teach this vocabulary word to the whole class out loud using the four steps listed below.

Vocabulary Word: **storm** (storm): very bad weather with rain, thunder, lightning, or snow.

Step 1: Introduce the word

- Teacher writes the word on the board and divides it into syllables: (storm)
- Teacher says: "This word is storm. What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "storm."]

Step 2: Provide a child-friendly definition

- Teacher says: "A storm is when there is very bad weather with rain, thunder, lightning, or snow."

- b. Teacher says: "The word storm is used when talking about bad weather. In this passage, the author discusses how hurricanes are very bad storms that bring heavy rain and wind."
- c. Teacher says: "What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "storm."]

Step 3: Practice the word

Teacher provides examples and additional opportunities to repeat the word. Read the first sentence out loud to your students. Begin reading it again and when you come to the vocabulary word prompt students to say the vocabulary word out loud. Then, finish reading the sentence out loud to your students.

Directions: Read the vocabulary word and definition below. Then answer questions 9 and 10.

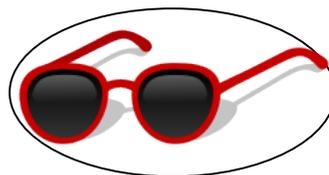
Vocabulary Word: **storm** (storm): very bad weather with rain, thunder, lightning, or snow.

9. Read the sentences below and underline all forms of the word **storm**.
- a. Right before the fireworks started, we heard thunder and saw lighting. A bad storm began, and we had to wait until it was over to watch the fireworks.
- b. There was a tropical storm warning for people living in Florida, so they started preparing for bad weather.
- c. When the storm hit the town, there was a lot of heavy rain.
- d. The family turned their sailboat around when the radio said that a bad storm was heading their way.
- e. During the spring, a lot of storms bring heavy rain.

Step 4: Check for student understanding

To the Teacher: This step can be completed as a whole class activity or as an independent practice.

10. Which object would you probably NOT need in a storm?



Suggested Additional Vocabulary: hurricane, ocean, coast, eye of the storm