

## Hurricanes

**WebQuest Description:** How do hurricanes form and affect our world?

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Curriculum:** Science

**Keywords:** hurricane, typhoon

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### Introduction

The purpose of this webquest is to provide information about hurricanes and the effects they have on our world. Hurricanes have been occurring for as long as time has been recorded. Although they are fascinating to observe, their ruthless devastation is enormous. When most people think about hurricanes they imagine extremely powerful wind causing the most damage to property. While the wind is very powerful, the storm surge that creates flooding is the most destructive facet of hurricane events. This webquest will give you the opportunity to learn about these massive storms including common origins, understanding the Saffir-Simpson scale, and loss prevention techniques.

### Tasks

- Task 1. Learn about and be able to describe where hurricanes are "born". What types of atmospheric conditions must be present in order for hurricanes to develop?
- Task 2. Learn about the Saffir-Simpson scale. How is the scale useful in determining the strength and destructive power of an oncoming hurricane.
- Task 3. Learn about hurricane loss prevention. What are steps that can be taken to avoid or minimize property damage from hurricanes?

### Process

This webquest gives you access to information about hurricanes and their affects on our world. Review the websites and videos in order to gain knowledge about origin, strength, and loss prevention of these huge storms. After reviewing all of the information, answer the 10 question quiz below:

Once a passing grade has been received on the quiz, write a 4-5 page paper covering the questions and points on the quiz.

- True or False: Hurricanes started happening in the last 100 years.
- True or False: Ninety percent of all hurricane deaths result from wind damage.
- The hurricane season for the United States begins in what month? A. August B. June C. April D. December
- True or False: Hurricanes in the Atlantic Basin spin counter-clockwise.
- The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale was created to determine A. Wind Velocity B. Destructive Power C. Wave height D. Point of Impact
- True or False: A category 3 Hurricane is not strong enough to damage large buildings.
- A hurricane begins as A. Tropical Storm B. Tropical Depression C. Thunderstorm D. Tornadoes in the Atlantic
- List at least three things to do before a hurricane in order to prevent or minimize property damage.
- Shatterproof windows will always withstand hurricane storm winds.
- A storm surge from hurricanes can be as high as A. 2 feet B. 5 feet C. 20 feet D. 50 feet

### Evaluation

The student's understanding of hurricanes and their affects on our world will be evaluated by the 10 question quiz in the "Process" portion of this webquest. Each question is worth 10 points for a total of 100 points. Grades of 90 or 100 are

