

THE HURRICANE

Terrance looked out the window. The sky was dark and full of storm clouds. The clouds were moving in circles. Lightning struck across the sky. Terrance was very scared. He looked at his parents. Terrance could see that they were worried. His father had spent the last hour moving all the lawn furniture into the garage and making sure all the windows were closed and fastened. His mother had filled the tub and all the sinks with water.

A hurricane was approaching. A hurricane is a huge storm that grows over the ocean. It can grow big enough to make dangerous winds and huge waves.

Terrance heard the wind. It was getting very loud. The wind chimes on the porch were jingling. Hurricanes have winds that go 74 miles per hour or more. That is faster than many people drive on the highway!

Terrance's father was listening to the radio. The radio announcer said that there was a hurricane warning. Terrance's mother said that they should go further inside the house, where there weren't any windows. Terrance looked at the sky one last time and then carefully closed the blinds on the black and swirling clouds. Then he went into the hallway with his parents, where his father said the walls were strongest.

In the hallway, Terrance could still hear the wind howling. While they were waiting for the storm to pass, Terrance's father told him about hurricanes. Hurricanes form over the ocean from thunderstorms. Warm ocean water helps the thunderstorms grow into a hurricane. When the speed of the storm grows to 74 miles per hour, it becomes a hurricane. The clouds of a hurricane travel counterclockwise* around a hole in the center of the storm. This hole is called the eye of the hurricane.

The voice on the radio said that the hurricane was going away. Soon, it wouldn't be dangerous anymore. Hurricanes need moisture from the ocean to survive. Water is like the hurricane's food source. Hurricanes lose their power when they pass over land because there is less water.

After the hurricane went away, Terrance and his family went back into the living room and opened the blinds again. Terrance saw the sun coming through the window. There were no more dark clouds. Thankfully, their house was not damaged by the fast winds of the hurricane. Terrance looked outside. A few trees had fallen in the street. He was happy that his family and his house were safe. He smiled.

*the clouds move in a clockwise direction in the Southern Hemisphere

Name _____ Date _____

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ABOUT *THE HURRICANE*

1. What makes hurricanes grow?

2. What makes hurricanes lose their power?

3. **Complete:** A hurricane has winds of at least _____ miles per hour.

4. **Complete:** The center of the hurricane is called the _____.

5. If there were a hurricane in your area, where would you go?

6. What are some of the steps that Terrance and his family take to prepare for the hurricane?

7. Have you ever been in a hurricane? If you have, write about this below. If you haven't, write about the last time you heard about a hurricane on the news. Where was it? What was its name?

ANSWERS TO *THE HURRICANE*

1. What makes hurricanes grow?
Warm ocean water helps the thunderstorms grow into a hurricane.
2. What makes hurricanes lose their power?
Hurricanes lose their power when they pass over land because there is less water.
3. **Complete:** A hurricane has winds of at least 74 miles per hour.
4. **Complete:** The center of the hurricane is called the eye.
5. If there were a hurricane in your area, where would you go?
Answers will vary, but the best place to go (unless the hurricane is so severe that homes are evacuated) is a stable structure away from windows, such as an interior bathroom, hallway, etc.
6. What are some of the steps that Terrance and his family take to prepare for the hurricane?
They listen to the radio.
They move the furniture inside.
They close and secure the windows.
They fill the bathtub with water (in case the water service is interrupted).
They close the blinds.
They go into a room with strong walls and no windows.
7. Have you ever been in a hurricane? If you have, write about this below. If you haven't, write about the last time you heard about a hurricane on the news. Where was it? What was its name?
Answers will vary.