

Grade – 4

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____ Comprehension Score: ____/6
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A. Comprehension - Read this passage and answer the questions below.

A hurricane is a severe tropical storm that forms in the North Atlantic Ocean, the Northeast Pacific Ocean, east of the dateline, or the South Pacific Ocean, east of 160E. Hurricanes need warm tropical oceans with moisture and light winds above them. If the right conditions last long enough, a hurricane can produce violent winds, incredible waves, torrential rains and floods. In other regions of the world, these storms have different names such as, Typhoon, Severe Tropical Cyclone, Severe Cyclonic Storm, and Tropical Cyclone.

Hurricanes rotate in a counterclockwise direction, around an "eye," which is the center part of a hurricane. A tropical storm becomes a hurricane when winds reach 74 MPH. On average, there are six Atlantic hurricanes per year. Over a three-year period, approximately five hurricanes strike the United States coastline from Texas to Maine. Hurricanes actually have their own season that is from June first to November thirtieth.

When a hurricane moves onto land, the heavy rain, strong winds, and heavy waves can damage buildings, trees, and cars. The heavy waves are called a storm surge. Storm surges are very dangerous and a major reason why you must stay away from the ocean during the hurricane.

Forecasters give names to tropical cyclones, including hurricanes, to avoid confusion when more than one storm is being followed at the same time. The storm naming system is downright **bureaucratic**. Tropical cyclones are the only storms that forecasters name. It is named when it reaches tropical storm strength with winds of 39 MPH, and becomes a hurricane or typhoon at 74 MPH. Most naming systems use common first names in various languages.

1. Define the word 'bureaucratic.'

2. What is the "eye" of the storm?

3. Why do forecasters give names to tropical cyclones?

4. What do hurricanes rotate around in a counterclockwise direction?

5. What speed do the winds of a storm need to reach to be considered a hurricane or a typhoon?
