

Progress Monitoring Probe 19

Hurricanes

What is big and dangerous and has only one eye? The answer is a hurricane!

12
15

Hurricanes are large, strong storms. They form over warm ocean waters. Hurricanes usually begin as a small cluster of storms. Heat and moisture from ocean water fuel the storms and cause them to grow. As they grow, the storms begin to spin. This spinning mass is called a tropical storm. When winds reach a constant speed of seventy-four miles per hour, the storm becomes a hurricane.

24
34
45
58
69
79
82

At the center of a hurricane is an area called the eye. It usually measures twenty to thirty miles in diameter. The eye is relatively calm and free of clouds. The area around the eye is called the eye wall. That is where the most violent weather occurs. Wind speeds in the eye wall can be over one hundred miles per hour or more!

95
106
118
129
141
146

In the United States, hurricane season lasts from June through November. During this time, scientists keep a close eye on the tropics. They watch for a building storm. Then they track its movement on weather maps. This helps them figure out where the storm might go next. People living in coastal areas need plenty of warning if a hurricane is approaching. Scientists issue a hurricane watch when there is a chance a hurricane will reach land. They issue a hurricane warning when the threat becomes real.

155
165
177
187
198
208
220
230
232

When hurricanes reach land, they can cause great damage. Heavy winds and rain are problems. Another hazard is the storm surge. This is a dome of ocean water that is forced inland by the storm. It pushes aside everything in its path. Hurricanes die out

241
252
266
277

Hurricanes (Continued)

soon after moving onto land. They no longer have the warm moist air that is the fuel they need to grow. Often, the dying storm floods inland areas with rain.

288
301
307

Hurricanes can be damaging and dangerous. It is not necessary to fear them, though. Modern weather forecasts help people prepare for the storms. With plenty of warning, people can protect themselves from the force of a hurricane.

316
325
335
344

Total words: _____ – errors: _____ = words correct: _____

Notes:

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