

Stormy Weather

Storm Warning!

Hurricane season is here.

A **hurricane** is a spinning storm. It brings heavy rain and strong winds.

Most hurricanes happen at this time of year. The season lasts from June to November.

Do you live in an area where hurricanes happen? If so, know what to do. Check weather alerts. They will tell you how to stay safe.



Jim Edds/Corbis

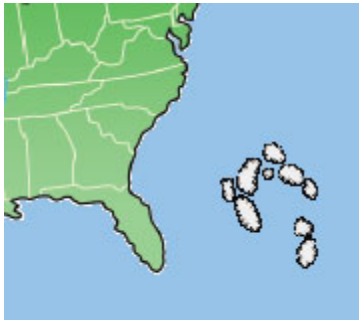
Hurricane winds can be harmful. They can rip the roofs off houses and tear down trees.

Strong winds can also cause big waves to form in the ocean. When the large waves push onto the shore, it is called a **storm surge**. That can cause flooding.



Reuters/Corbis; Inset: AP Images

How Does a Hurricane Form?



Sean Parkes

(1) Warm ocean water turns into tiny drops of water in the air. They form clouds.



Sean Parkes

(2) Winds make the clouds spin together. They spin faster and faster.



Sean Parkes

(3) A hurricane forms. Clouds spin around the **eye**. That is the storm's calm center.

Name: _____ Date: _____

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

1. Describe what a hurricane is.

2. Why can hurricanes be harmful?

3. Based on the passage, what is the normal sequence of how a hurricane forms?

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 can bring heavy rain and strong winds to Florida.

What? hurricanes

5. (can) What?

6. Where?

7. When?

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

Hurricanes bring rain and wind, _____ they do not bring snow.

- A but
- B because
- C so

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

Vocabulary Word: **surge** (surge): a sudden increase in something.

9. Read the sentences below and underline all forms of the word **surge**.
- a. During the hurricane, there was a surge of waves that reached 12 feet high.
 - b. The town was flooded due to a sudden surge of water.
 - c. When she saw the puppy, she felt a surge of love and just had to buy it!
 - d. There was a surge of people at the store after everyone heard about the store's big sale.
 - e. The singer saw a surge in her popularity after she put out a new song that many people liked.

10. Which picture shows something more likely to cause a surge of happiness?



Teacher Guide and Answer Key

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 420

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

Passage Summary: The passage describes what a hurricane and storm surge are. It also describes the way that a hurricane forms.

To the Teacher: Read the passage aloud to the class [TIP: while reading aloud, show the passage on a whiteboard or give each student a copy of the passage so 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 spinning storm that brings heavy rain and strong winds. Most occur between June and November. [paragraphs 1, 2, 3]

2. Why can hurricanes be harmful? [Important Detail]

Suggested answer: A hurricane's winds can rip off the roofs of houses, tear down trees, and cause huge waves to form in the ocean. If the waves reach the shore, they can cause flooding. [paragraphs 4, 5]

3. Based on the passage, what is the normal sequence of how a hurricane forms? [Important Detail]

Suggested answer: In order for a hurricane to form, warm ocean water must first turn into tiny drops in the air and form clouds. Winds make the clouds spin together, faster and faster. Lastly, a hurricane forms, and the clouds spin around the eye. [paragraphs 6, 7, 8]

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

Suggested answer: The article is mainly about what hurricanes are and how they are created.

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 can bring heavy rain and strong winds to Florida.

What? hurricanes

5. (can) What? **bring heavy rain and strong winds**

6. Where? **to Florida**

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

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

Hurricanes bring rain and wind, _____ they do not bring snow.

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: **surge** (surge): a sudden increase in something.

Step 1: Introduce the word

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

Step 2: Provide a child-friendly definition

- a. Teacher says: "Surge means a sudden increase in something."

- b. Teacher says: "The word surge is used when talking about a sudden increase in something. In this passage, the author discusses how a hurricane can cause a surge of waves from the ocean to the coast. So there is a large amount of water that surges or moves from the ocean to the coast, often causing flooding. You can also have a surge or strong increase in feeling."
- c. Teacher says: "What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "Surge."]

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: **surge** (surge): a sudden increase in something.

9. Read the sentences below and underline all forms of the word **surge**.
- a. During the hurricane, there was a surge of waves that reached 12 feet high.
- b. The town was flooded due to a sudden surge of water.
- c. When she saw the puppy, she felt a surge of love and just had to buy it!
- d. There was a surge of people at the store after everyone heard about the store's big sale.
- e. The singer saw a surge in her popularity after she put out a new song that many people liked.

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 picture shows something more likely to cause a surge of happiness?



Suggested Additional Vocabulary: hurricane, storm