

1

Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. At what time of year do hurricanes mostly occur ? _____
2. A hurricane is an area of _____ pressure.
3. How strong must a storm be to officially become a hurricane? _____
4. What happens in the middle of a hurricane? _____

5. Which part of the hurricane has the strongest winds? _____
6. How do hurricanes rotate in the northern hemisphere? _____

7. How do hurricanes rotate in the southern hemisphere? _____

8. How do hurricanes get their names? _____

9. What kind of damage can a Category 5 hurricane cause? _____

10. What is a hurricane watch? _____

11. Name some things you can do to protect yourself from a hurricane. _____

12. Why was most of New Orleans destroyed by Hurricane Katrina? _____

13. Where were people evacuated during the storm ? _____

14. What happened in the days after the hurricane? _____

15. Why was the government criticized during the catastrophe? _____

2

Match the words on the left with the definitions on the right.

A	flooding		break up
B	hemisphere		place where the air is light and moves upward
C	low pressure		to bring a person away from a dangerous situation
D	moist		where land and sea come together
E	surface		the people or organizations that have the power to make decisions
F	calm		wet
G	curved		all the time, very often
H	disperse		quiet, smooth
I	rise		when land is covered by water because of rainfall
J	broadcast		land that a person owns
K	coast		to send out a radio or TV program
L	constantly		go up
M	evacuate		to make the water move away from something
N	property		half of the Earth
O	levee		bent, rounded
P	authorities		special wall that is built to stop flooding from a river
Q	drain		the top part of something

HURRICANES – EXERCISES

3

TRUE or FALSE. Decide if the sentences are True or False and tick them off (✓). If the sentence is false write a correct statement into the box on the right. The first TWO have been done for you.

		T	F	Correct Statement
1	The eye of a hurricane has the strongest winds.		✓	The strongest winds are around the eye
2	Hurricanes come from the Caribbean Sea and move northwest towards the Gulf coast.	✓		
3	When hurricanes hit land, they lose some of their energy.			
4	One year hurricanes only get male names and the next year only female names.			
5	The same names are used every year.			
6	In Australia hurricanes are called willy-willies.			
7	Hurricanes often cause a rise in sea level near the coast.			
8	All hurricanes begin as tropical storms.			
9	In the northern hemisphere the air around a hurricane moves in a clockwise direction			
10	A hurricane watch tells you that a hurricane may come to your area.			
11	Most hurricanes occur during the winter months.			
12	Hurricane Katrina was a Category 4 hurricane.			
13	New Orleans has levees around it to protect the city from flooding.			
14	The government quickly helped the citizens of New Orleans.			

HURRICANES – EXERCISES

4

Complete the text with words from the box. There are TWO words you will not need.

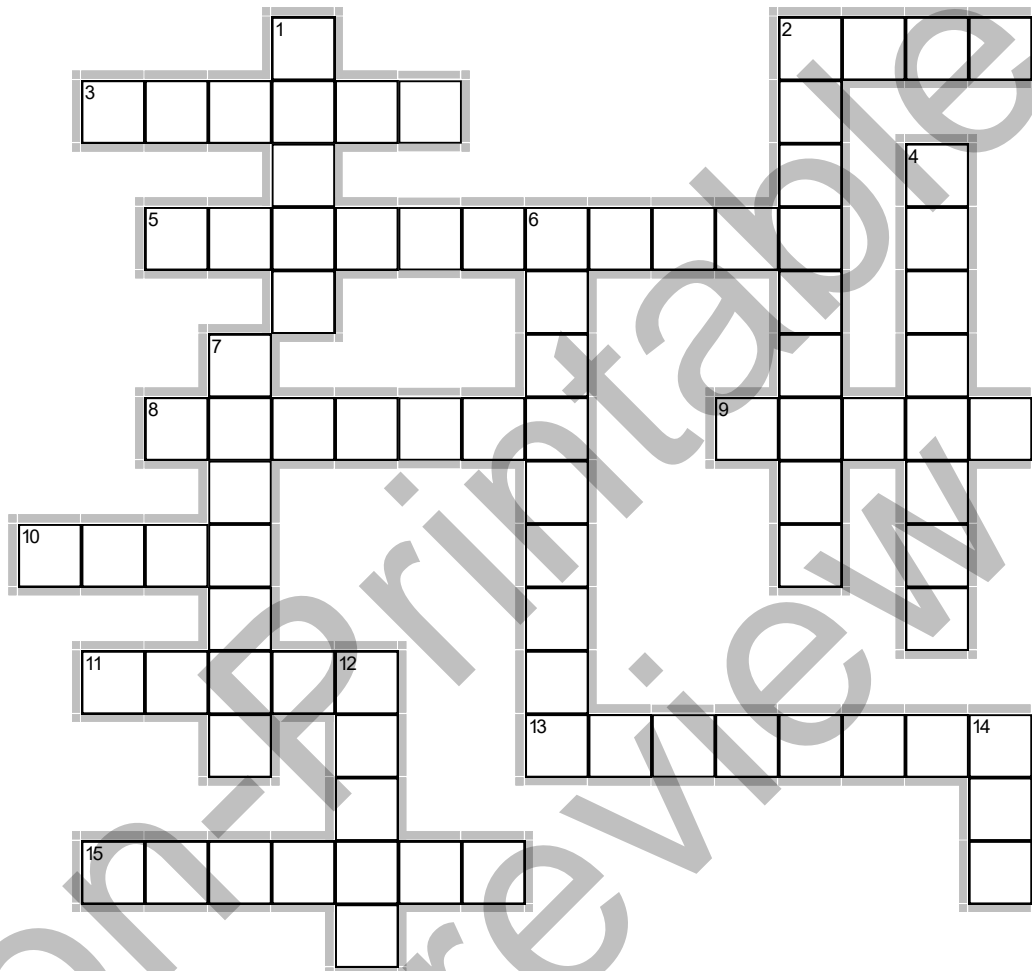
authorities - evacuated - disaster - drain - electricity - flooded - heavy - history - hurricane - landfall - levees - population - sighted - spread - storms - violence

Hurricane Katrina was one of the most powerful (1) _____ that has ever been (2) _____ in the Atlantic Ocean. A week after it had formed it hit New Orleans and (3) _____ most of the city.

New Orleans lies in a dangerous area because it is in the middle of (4) _____ routes and the Mississippi River also flows through the city. In the past years (5) _____ have been built to protect the city from flooding and pumps were made to (6) _____ the water away.

When Katrina hit New Orleans, it brought (7) _____ rainfall and parts of the levee broke. Most of the city's (8) _____ was (9) _____ and a few thousand were able to reach the Superdome. About a hundred thousand people, mostly poorer ones, could not leave the city. They had no (10) _____ and water for many days. Chaos (11) _____ through most parts of the city and violence increased.

The city (12) _____ were not well-prepared for the (13) _____. There were almost no plans to get people out of the city. President Bush waited for four days before he visited the area. Thousands of people died in one of the biggest catastrophes in American (14) _____.



Across

2. very smooth, quiet
3. to pull a tree or plant out of the ground
5. river that flows through New Orleans
8. low pressure area in which winds start to rotate
9. special wall that is built to stop flooding from a river
10. route
11. when water covers land
13. to bring people to a safe place
15. name of a powerful hurricane that hit New Orleans in 2005

Down

1. another word for wet
2. sea between the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean
4. the land that you own
6. stadium in New Orleans
7. name for a tropical storm in Asia
12. to make water move away from an area so that it doesn't flood it
14. the center of a hurricane

6

Find 13 words about hurricanes in the grid below.

A	H	E	M	I	S	P	H	E	R	E	T
H	D	A	M	A	G	E	E	J	O	S	H
U	E	W	O	H	C	M	R	A	W	V	U
M	H	Q	I	B	C	E	T	C	I	E	N
L	B	F	S	C	Y	C	L	O	N	E	D
P	E	M	T	E	C	C	G	A	D	E	E
B	Y	V	L	K	A	U	Z	S	U	D	R
X	E	T	E	O	E	L	S	T	Y	W	S
C	W	E	M	E	R	G	E	N	C	Y	T
R	A	I	N	O	N	C	T	V	S	C	O
Q	L	E	V	A	C	U	A	T	E	H	R
M	L	H	D	D	E	Z	F	R	C	L	M

HURRICANES – EXERCISES

7

Read the text about hurricanes. In most of the lines there is a word that shouldn't be there. Write this word into the box on the right. If the line is correct tick it off (✓). There are two examples at the beginning.

1	Hurricanes are massive storms that form over the warm waters	✓
2	of the Atlantic Ocean. They act like giant engines, and using	and
3	warm, moist air as fuel to grow up larger in power and size.	
4	A hurricane year begins when warm ocean water heats the	
5	air above it. The warm air rises and creates together a low	
6	pressure zone. As more moist air fills the gap, the area begins	
7	to spin because of the Earth's rotation. It turns them into a	
8	moving circle with a calm spinning center, called the eye.	
9	When hurricanes usually move westward across the Atlantic	
10	towards the Gulf of Mexico. As long as they stay over warm	
11	water they continue to grow. When they have hit land or	
12	move over such colder water they start losing their power	
13	and slow down.	
14	Hurricanes are among the most dangerous storms ever. Winds	
15	can never reach speeds of over 250 km an hour. They push	
16	sea water onto the land and cause massive flooding area. In	
17	some cases while the population of such a region must be	
18	evacuated until the hurricane passes down and people can	
19	return to their homes safely.	