

1

Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. At what time of year do hurricanes mostly occur ? **late summer and early autumn**
2. A hurricane is an area of **low** pressure.
3. How strong must a storm be to officially become a hurricane? **A Category 1 hurricane starts at 119 km/hour**
4. What happens in the middle of a hurricane? **a calm area with little rainfall**
5. Which part of the hurricane has the strongest winds? **the eyewall**
6. How do hurricanes rotate in the northern hemisphere? **counterclockwise**
7. How do hurricanes rotate in the southern hemisphere? **clockwise**
8. How do hurricanes get their names? **alphabetically, male and female names alternate**
9. What kind of damage can a Category 5 hurricane cause? **the most powerful hurricanes, can destroy houses and roofs, uproot trees**
10. What is a hurricane watch? **people are warned via TV and radio that a hurricane may hit within the next 24 hours**
11. Name some things you can do to protect yourself from a hurricane. **keep emergency supplies of water and food; battery powered radio; keep gas in your car tank; nail plywood over windows and doors; find out which roads to take in case of evacuation**
12. Why was most of New Orleans destroyed by Hurricane Katrina? **the city lies below sea level, and the Mississippi River flows through it**
13. Where were people evacuated during the storm ? **to other, safer areas; some escaped to the Superdome**
14. What happened in the days after the hurricane? **chaos; people broke into shops; increase of violence; people were trapped on rooftops**
15. Why was the government criticized during the catastrophe? **the city authorities and the government were not prepared; it took them very long to react**

2

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

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

HURRICANES – KEY

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.		✓	Male and female names alternate
5	The same names are used every year.		✓	Each year new names are used so you can connect a name to a certain 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		✓	The air moves in a counterclockwise direction
10	A hurricane watch tells you that a hurricane may come to your area.	✓		
11	Most hurricanes occur during the winter months.		✓	The hurricane season is in late summer or early autumn.
12	Hurricane Katrina was a Category 4 hurricane.		✓	Hurricane Katrina was a Category 5 hurricane.
13	New Orleans has levees around it to protect the city from flooding.	✓		
14	The government quickly helped the citizens of New Orleans.		✓	It took days before the government offered any assistance,

4

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

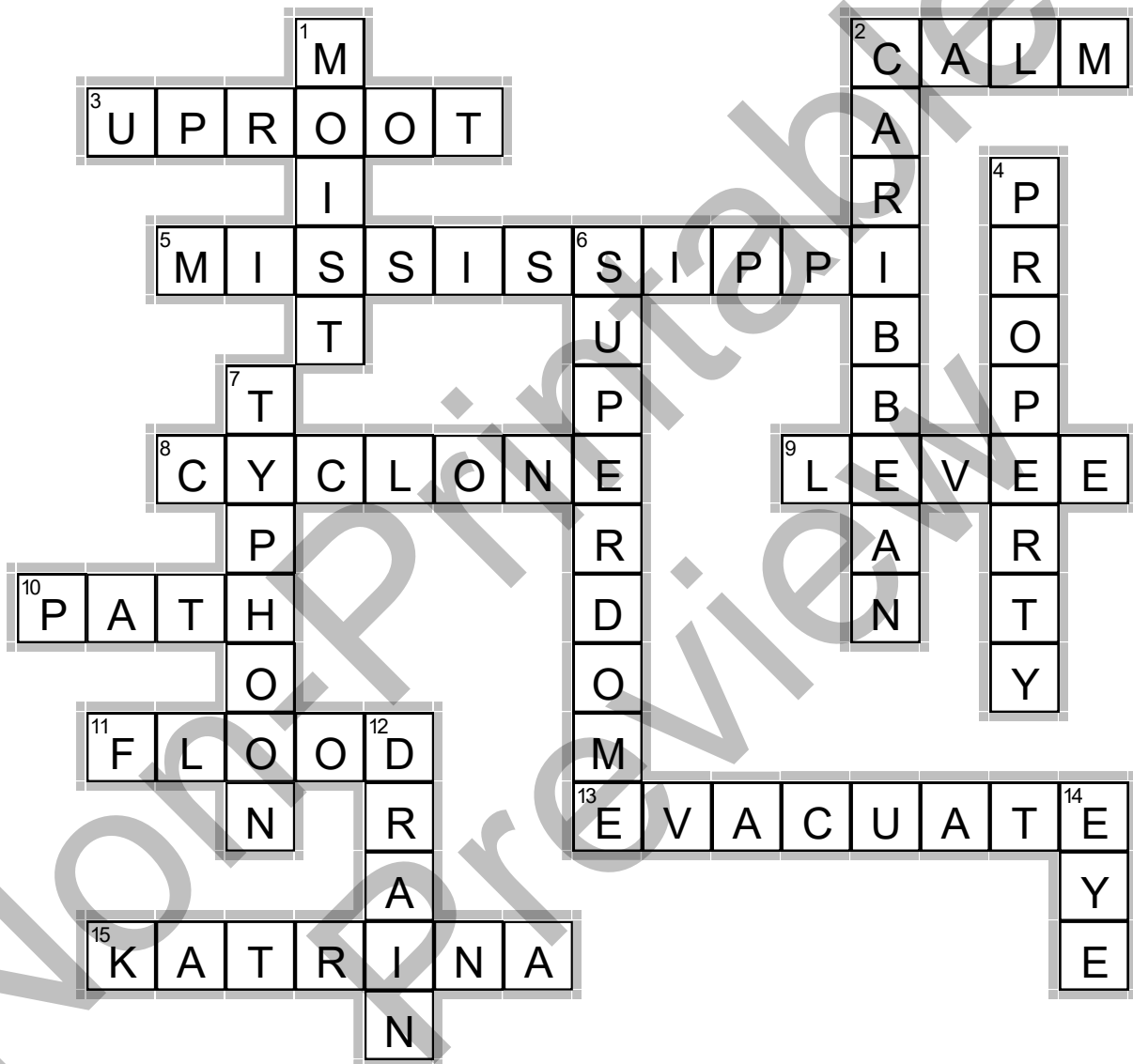
authorities - evacuated - disaster - drain - electricity - flooded - heavy - history - hurricane - landfall - levees - population - sighted - spread - storms - violence

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

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

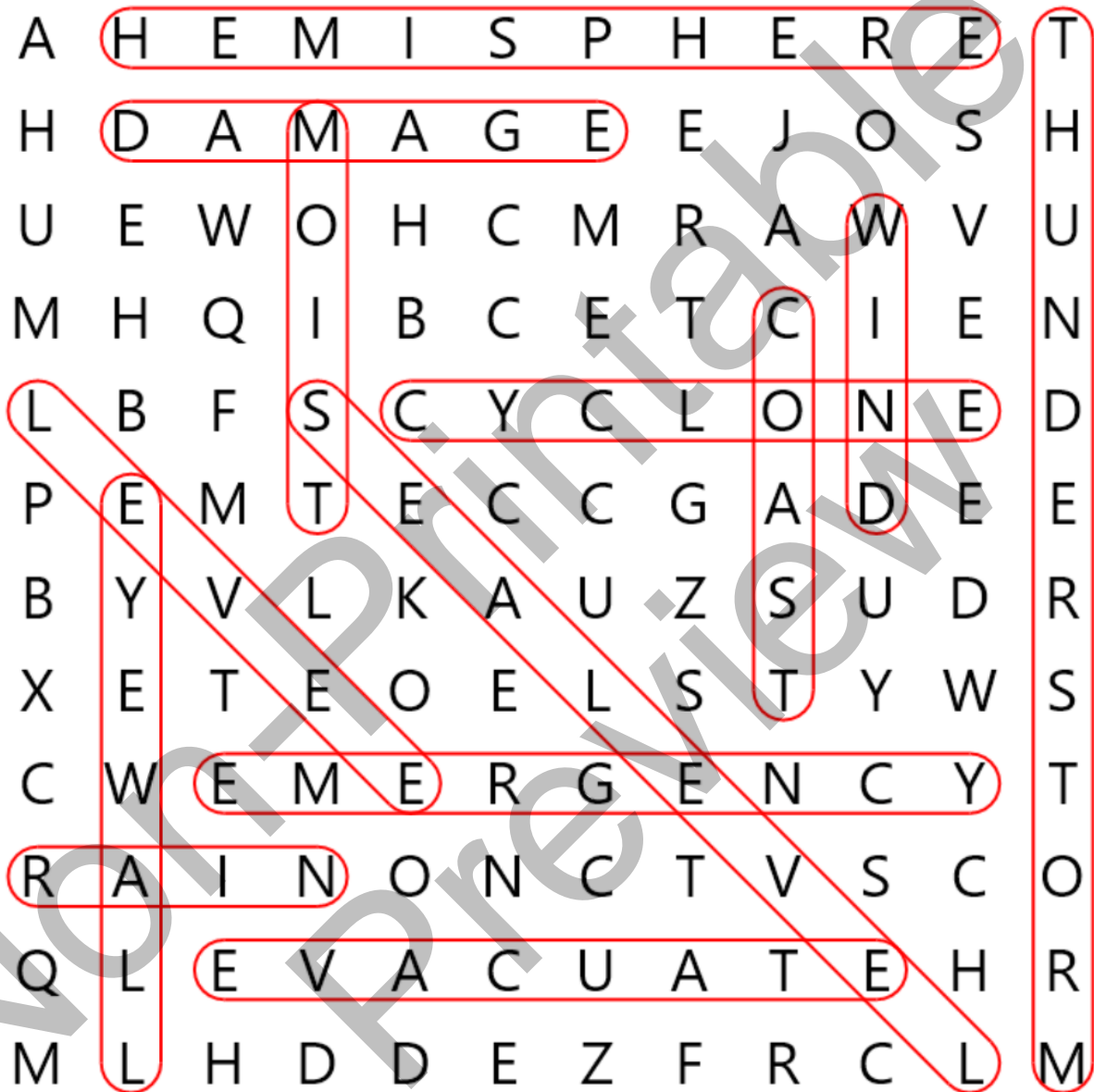
When Katrina hit New Orleans, it brought (7) **heavy** rainfall and parts of the levee broke. Most of the city's (8) **population** was (9) **evacuated** and a few thousand were able to reach the Superdome. About a hundred thousand people, mostly poorer ones, could not leave the city. They had no (10)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

The city (12) **authorities** were not well-prepared for the (13) **disaster**. 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) **history**.



6

Find 13 words about hurricanes in the grid below.



HURRICANES – KEY

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.	up
4	A hurricane year begins when warm ocean water heats the	year
5	air above it. The warm air rises and creates together a low	together
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	them
8	moving circle with a calm spinning center, called the eye.	spinning
9	When hurricanes usually move westward across the Atlantic	when
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	have
12	move over such colder water they start losing their power	such
13	and slow down.	✓
14	Hurricanes are among the most dangerous storms ever. Winds	ever
15	can never reach speeds of over 250 km an hour. They push	never
16	sea water onto the land and cause massive flooding area. In	area
17	some cases while the population of such a region must be	while
18	evacuated until the hurricane passes down and people can	down
19	return to their homes safely.	✓