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# Hurricanes



## What is a hurricane?

A **hurricane** is a rotating storm with lots of rain and wind. They can be very big with some reaching 600 miles across! Hurricanes move over the ocean, gaining power from warm water. Each hurricane has an **eye** in the center. The eye is the calmest part of the hurricane. Hurricanes are called typhoons if they form in the Northwest Pacific Ocean.

## Hurricane wind

Hurricanes are categorized by their wind speed. Once a rotating storm has winds of **74 mph**, it becomes a hurricane. Before a spinning storm becomes a hurricane, it is called a tropical depression or tropical storm. There are 5 categories of hurricanes with each category having a certain range of wind speeds. Category 5 hurricanes have winds that reach 156 mph, while the fastest hurricane had winds of 215 mph!

|                                                                                     | Category | Wind Speed  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------|
|  | 1        | 74-95 mph   |
|  | 2        | 96-110 mph  |
|  | 3        | 111-129 mph |
|  | 4        | 130-156 mph |
|  | 5        | 157+ mph    |

Ecobottle Sample



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**Hurricane:** A rotating storm.

**Eye:** The calm center of a storm.

**74 mph:** Wind speed necessary for a hurricane.

**Hurricane Season:** from June 1<sup>st</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup> in the Atlantic Region.

How do hurricanes form?

# Ecobottle Sample



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## What to do in case of a hurricane

Hurricanes can be dangerous. High winds and heavy rains can damage buildings and cause flooding. Many people keep disaster kits which include flashlights, extra batteries, drinking water, canned food, first aid supplies, and a radio in case of a large storm. The key to being safe in a hurricane is staying inside and listening to the advice of local police and emergency services.



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**Moist air:** Air that has lots of water in it.

**Clockwise and Counterclockwise:** Clockwise is the way the hands on a clock move. Counterclockwise is the other way

### **Reading Comprehension Questions**

1. How
2. What
3. When is hurricane season?
4. What causes warm air rising to become clouds?
5. Why
6. Why are the months between June and November good times for hurricanes to form?
7. What should a family do to

# Ecobottle Sample



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