

Name _____

The Power of Hurricanes

A giant storm forms over the Atlantic Ocean. It moves westward. The ocean water below is warm, so the storm grows stronger. The storm's winds start to spin in a circle. They spin faster and faster and reach a speed of more than 74 miles per hour. As a result, the storm becomes a hurricane. At the center of the hurricane is the eye. It is calm there.

The hurricane's spinning winds cause massive thunderstorms. Lightning strikes, and huge raindrops fall. The spinning winds make the ocean water rise in giant waves. Eventually the waves may crash into the shore.

Hurricanes that strike land are dangerous. Their strong winds can destroy sturdy trees and buildings. They produce huge waves, which can flood land near coastlines. For these reasons, hurricanes can cause thousands of dollars in damage.

Hurricanes appear suddenly, but people can prepare. Meteorologists use tools for measuring the power of storms, so they can warn people before a hurricane strikes. As a result, fewer homes and lives are lost.

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