



Summary

Earth's Power: Hurricanes describes a type of extreme weather and the effects hurricanes have on the areas they hit. It addresses how hurricanes form, the parts and potential strength of hurricanes, and gives examples of past hurricanes and their destruction.

| Vocabulary | | Comprehension Strategy | Genre Study | Text Features | |
|--|----------------------|---|---|---------------------|------------|
| coriolis effect | Saffir-Simpson Scale | Summarizing information, Visualizing | Text structure: Description/list structure, Use of embedded definitions | table of contents | headings |
| equator | | | | photographs | charts |
| hurricane eye | storm surge | | | captions | text boxes |
| hurricane eyewall | tropical | | | index | glossary |
| hurricane hunters | depression | | | bold glossary words | |
| National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) | tropical disturbance | | | | |
| | tropical storm | | | | |
| | | | | | |

Standards: Geography and Science

- Understands how physical systems affect human systems
- Knows natural hazards that occur in the physical environment
- Knows that short term weather conditions change daily, and weather patterns change over the seasons

Kendall, J. S., & Marzano, R. J. (2004). *Content knowledge: A compendium of standards and benchmarks for K-12 education*. Aurora, CO: Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL). Online database: www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/

Discussion Prompts Prior to Independent Reading

Vocabulary Building and Background Knowledge:

Read the title as students look at the cover. Ask students to talk about what they observe on the cover and what they already know about hurricanes. Scaffold a discussion that builds on the background knowledge of students. Introduce students to the vocabulary words by having them look at the index on page 32.

- Read the definition for *tropical storm*. Which do you think might be more powerful: a tropical storm or a hurricane?
- What is the difference between a *tropical depression* and a *tropical disturbance*?
- What is the *hurricane eye*?

Genre Study and Text Features:

State that **Earth's Power: Hurricanes** is an informational text

written as a description of hurricanes, their effects on the land they hit, and how they form. Highlight genre characteristics and text features that will support students in reading the text.

Highlight prompts:

- Look at the table of contents of your book. What are some things you think you'll learn from reading this book?
- The index is a text feature that helps you find information quickly. Let's look at the index on page 32. How is the index different from the table of contents?

Reading the Book:

Have students read the book independently or with a partner.

Comprehension Questions

After students have completed reading **Earth's Power: Hurricanes** gather students together for a discussion based on the questions below or assign students to answer the questions independently or with a partner.

- What is a storm surge? How does it change the land areas it hits?
- Would a hurricane form over the state of Kansas? Explain your answer.
- How does a tropical disturbance turn into a hurricane?

BLM: Extension Activity

Students may use the next page to create a timeline of major hurricanes mentioned in the reading, including the year, name, land area affected, and the damages or death tolls caused.



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Name: _____ Date: _____

Timeline

Directions: Create a timeline of major hurricanes mentioned in the book. Include the year each occurred, its name, the land area it affected, and the damages or death tolls it caused.

Major Hurricanes

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | | |
| Name: | Name: | Name: | Name: |
| Year: | Year: | Year: | Year: |
| Area affected: | Area affected: | Area affected: | Area affected: |
| Damages/Deaths: | Damages/Deaths: | Damages/Deaths: | Damages/Deaths: |