

Preparing for Hurricanes

Hi! I'm Greta. In the U.S., hurricanes happen most often along the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico coastlines. Want to learn more? Download **Monster Guard**. It's a free app from the American Red Cross that teaches kids how to be prepared for emergencies. Choose "Hurricane" on the main menu. Then join me on a training mission to learn how to get ready when a hurricane is on the way. **Note:** You must have completed the **Monster Guard** Initiation section before you can access the Hurricane training mission.

My Hurricane Safety Score: _____



Part 1

A hurricane is a very large, very powerful spiral-shaped storm. Every hurricane forms over warm ocean waters that heat the air, causing it to rise and pull more warm air up after it. The rising air creates a wind that grows stronger as it pulls still more warm air upward, where the air cools to create a growing storm cloud. Strong winds blowing across the ocean push the storm westward and cause it to rotate, which increases the wind speed and pulls even more warm, moist air into the storm. When the wind speed reaches 74 miles per hour, the storm is called a hurricane.

Hurricanes are most feared for their destructive winds, which can blow down trees and damage homes, but hurricanes also push a large amount of ocean water onto the land, creating a *storm surge* that can wash away roads and buildings. A storm surge is an abnormal rise of water generated by a storm, over and above the predicted astronomical tide. Visit <https://youtu.be/b4ZhjwbNTXk> to view an animation that shows how a storm surge is created, then visit www.nhc.noaa.gov/animations/images/hurricane_winddamage.swf for an animation that shows only the damage caused by increasingly powerful hurricane winds. Use the space below to take notes comparing the impact of wind and water. Then get together with a small group of classmates and use your observations to come up with ideas for reducing the impact of hurricanes on shoreline communities.

Storm Surge Damage	Wind Damage

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Part 2

Do you remember your hurricane safety training? Show what you learned by completing this list of things you need to take with you if you have to evacuate when a hurricane is on the way. Write the missing words in the blanks.

1. A _____-day supply of _____.
2. A _____-day supply of _____.
3. An emergency _____.

Part 3

Weather forecasters use satellites to track hurricanes so they can warn people to evacuate when a hurricane approaches. Unfortunately, sometimes people don't want to leave. They may need some help understanding the danger they are in. Using what you have learned about hurricanes, create a flier on the back of this sheet that urges people to evacuate when a hurricane is on the way.

**Replay the
Monster Guard
Hurricane training
mission. See if you
can score higher!**

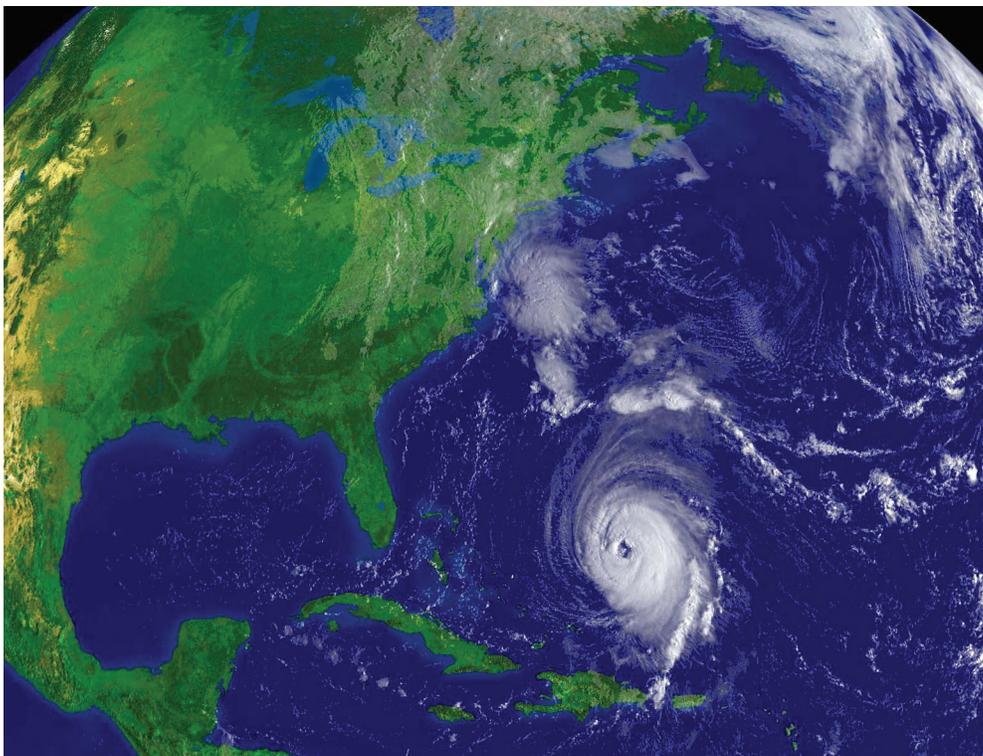


Photo: NOAA

