

Storm Watch

Can you tell the difference between a hurricane and a tornado? Both are storms that spin around in a circle – what weather forecasters call *cyclones*. And both can destroy whole communities with their strong winds. So what makes them different?

Get together with a small group of classmates to answer that question. Your teacher will have your group gather information about hurricanes or tornadoes. Use the research guide below to organize what you discover. Then present your findings in a class discussion. By working together, you'll learn the difference between hurricanes and tornadoes, and how to stay safe when these two different kinds of storms happen.

Our Research Topic: Hurricanes Tornadoes

Where the storm happens

Use the Hazards Map poster to find out where your type of storm happens in the United States. You can also use the online maps at maps.redcross.org/website/maps/ARC_Map_Links.html. Mark the locations on this map.



How the storm happens

To learn about tornadoes, visit www.nssl.noaa.gov/education/svrwx101/tornadoes. To learn about hurricanes, visit <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/hurricanes/en>. Or watch a video at <http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/kids/forces-of-nature-kids>. Use this space or a separate sheet of paper to take notes on the facts you plan to share with your classmates.

How to stay safe

What should you do if a hurricane or tornado is headed your way? Are there different safety precautions for these two kinds of storms? Visit the American Red Cross website to find out. Go to redcross.org/prepare/disaster and click on Hurricane or Tornado. Use this space or a separate sheet of paper to write down the safety facts you plan to share with your classmates.

Plan how your group will present what you have learned to the class. You might want to use pictures or videos that you have found on the Internet, or create your own diagrams and charts to explain your kind of cyclone and how to stay safe when one happens.