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GRADES 3-5

REPRODUCIBLE MASTER

ACTIVITY 3 MEASURING THE WAVE

In the film ***Hurricane***, we see the strong winds that make a hurricane so dangerous. The winds are blowing gently when the storm starts in Africa. They build as the storm travels across the Atlantic Ocean. By the time the storm reaches Cuba, we see the strong winds batter the island, especially where the group taking shelter is huddled in their reinforced hut. The winds also cause a storm surge and flooding, as we see when Lucy reaches Louisiana.

Follow your teacher's directions and the illustrations below to experiment with different wind strengths and the waves they generate in shallow and deeper water. Use this chart to record the height of the waves you generate.

Figure A: Shallow Water

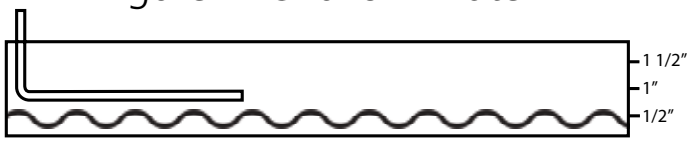
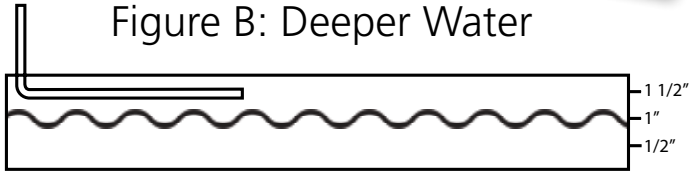


Figure B: Deeper Water



After you perform the experiment, think about how similar winds and waves might affect the landscape when a hurricane makes landfall.

Force of air through the straw	Wave height in shallow water	Wave height in deeper water
Trial 1: gentle		
Trial 2: medium		
Trial 3: strong		

Imagine a strong wind – like the one you created in trial 3 – blowing over the ocean and onto the land. What do you think would happen to the beaches, trees, and buildings?

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Now, with your partner, write a report that draws conclusions from the experiments your team just performed:

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