

What Do You Call a Cyclone?

Part 1 →

Gloria and Bob were really messy. Camille and Opal were just plain out of control. Then, Andrew and Hugo did lots of damage. Is this all a baby-sitter's nightmare? No, these are some of the world's all-time worst cyclones.

A cyclone is a storm with high winds that move in a circular path. Hurricanes are one type of cyclone. A cyclone begins as a strong, windy rainstorm. Then, as it grows, the winds begin to turn like a pinwheel around the center of the storm, getting stronger and stronger. The center of the storm, called the eye, stays calm and still.

Many cyclones start out at sea, and many never make it to land. They just blow themselves out over the sea. Cyclones that form over the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea, and the Gulf of Mexico are called *hurricanes*. Sometimes a hurricane hits land with a powerful, angry smack. Such a storm may last more than a week and can wipe out a whole town.

Part 2 →

Long ago, hurricanes did not have names. In the early 1900s, a weathercaster in Australia began to name storms after people he did not like. Then, during the 1950s, forecasters in the United States started naming all tropical storms they discovered with women's names. After a while, women began to ask why these dangerous storms were named only after women. In 1979, the practice of naming every other storm with a man's name began. This means that if one storm gets a woman's name, the next will be assigned a man's name. Naming storms helps avoid confusion, since more than one hurricane might be forming at the same time.

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Resource Links RDI Book 1: p. 342**SAM Keyword:** Sequence

What Do You Call a Cyclone? *(Continued)*

Part 3

Once a name is used for a hurricane it won't be used again for six years. Some names, though, will never be used twice. That's because these storms were so bad that their names were retired. Camille (1969), Hugo (1989), and Andrew (1992) are three names that we will never use again for hurricanes. Andrew stirred up winds that reached 175 miles an hour and left over 200,000 people homeless. It caused over 20 billion dollars worth of damage, mostly in Miami, Florida.

Here are some of the names for the 2005 hurricane season: Arlene, Bret, Cindy, Dennis, Emily, Gert, Harvey, Irene, Jose, Katrina, Maria, Nate, Ophelia, Phillippe, Rita, Stan, Tammy, Vince, and Wilma. The names are in alphabetical order because that's the way hurricanes are named. If Dennis just bullied his way through the Caribbean, Emily may be next. Is your name on the list?

Whatever their names, hurricanes are watched carefully by the National Hurricane Center (NHC). During the hurricane season in the United States, which is May 15 through November 30, the NHC may issue hurricane warnings as soon as a storm starts to form. After hearing the warning, an Air Force group called *Hurricane Hunters* drops instruments into the hurricane. These instruments measure the hurricane's wind speed. Then, the NHC uses the information to predict when and where the hurricane will strike next.

Part 4

Resource Links

1 RDI Book 1: p. 343

SAM Keyword: Sequence

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Sequence of Events

The **sequence** is the order in which events take place. Use these tips to follow the sequence in a text.

- Look for signal words, such as *first*, *next*, *after*, *then*, and *finally*.
- Look for clues that events or instructions might be out of order, for example, *long ago* or *at the same time*.

Write each event or step in order.

Passage: _____

A vertical sequence of four empty rounded rectangular boxes, each connected to the one below it by a downward-pointing arrow. This graphic organizer is designed for students to write a sequence of events in order.

Resource Links

1 RDI Book 1: p 395

SAM Keyword: Sequence

Use with pages 290, 291, and 324.

