



HURRICANE CAREERS

Long before a hurricane makes the news, people in various professions are watching *the hurricane*. As a hurricane approaches populated areas, ever-increasing numbers of people get involved in tracking it and conveying that information to the public. While some people buckle down in the hurricane, emergency personnel are out in the field, helping those in its path. Later, a whole new group of people get involved in the clean-up as life returns to normal in the days, months and years following a hurricane.

Learning Objective: Students will learn that hurricanes impact many different professions, both before, during and after the storm.

Challenge: Discover how many different careers are associated with hurricanes.

Materials: books and articles on hurricanes, paper, pencils

Procedure:

1. Explain to students that predicting and tracking a hurricane is important and challenging work for any scientist. Many other people also get involved when communities begin making preparations for a huge storm, help each other ride it out, and help the community recover afterwards. Think about how many different professions are involved.

2. Discuss all the different ways people are impacted by hurricanes.

Brainstorm a list of careers that have to do with hurricanes.

To get responses you might ask leading questions such as:

- What happens during a hurricane?

- How do people learn where and when a hurricane may hit?

- What may the area look like after a hurricane?

- What kind of damage might result?

- Who can help out before, during, and after a hurricane?

3. Make a web about Hurricanes with careers branching off from it- perhaps organized by *before, during, and after*.

Careers that students may come up with might include: meteorologist, hurricane chaser, pilot, NASA satellite operator, oceanographer, insurance adjuster, salvager, Red Cross worker, Emergency Medical Technician, radio announcer, police officer, lawyer, trauma counselor,

repair people for boats, houses, cars, power company line crews,

4. Ask each student to choose one career to research through books or by interviewing people who do those jobs. What tools or skills do they need?

Extension: Tools of the Trade

Brainstorm a list of scientific instruments that help us to predict the weather. Students may suggest satellites, radar, thermometers, barometers, hygrometers (measure humidity), weather balloons, and wind anemometers, for example.