

Hurricane, typhoon, cyclone...all three define a great swirling storm born of the sea and capable of widespread destruction. The term *hurricane* is used for storms born in the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea or Gulf of Mexico. The word *typhoon* is used to describe the same storm west of the International Date Line. Other terms sometimes associated with hurricanes are *cyclones* (Indian Ocean) and *Willy Willies* (Australia).

Hurricanes were first given names in the 19th century by an Australian weatherman named Clement Wragge. Apparently, Mr. Wragge used the names of people whom he

disliked. During World War II, meteorologists in the United States military picked up the practice and named storms after their wives and girlfriends.

Starting in 1953, meteorologists began using female names exclusively. This continued through 1978. In that year, Pacific storms were alternately named male/female. Atlantic hurricanes followed suit in 1979.

To qualify for a name, a tropical depression must develop into a tropical storm, which, by definition, has winds in excess of 39 miles per hour. The six-year list developed

includes easy to remember names from three languages: English (Bob), French (Claudette), and Spanish (Paloma). Names beginning with the letters Q, U, X, Y, and Z are not used because of the scarcity of common names beginning with these letters. The lists repeat themselves every six years, except for names of especially destructive storms, which are retired.

Learning Objective: Students will recognize when a tropical depression becomes a tropical storm.

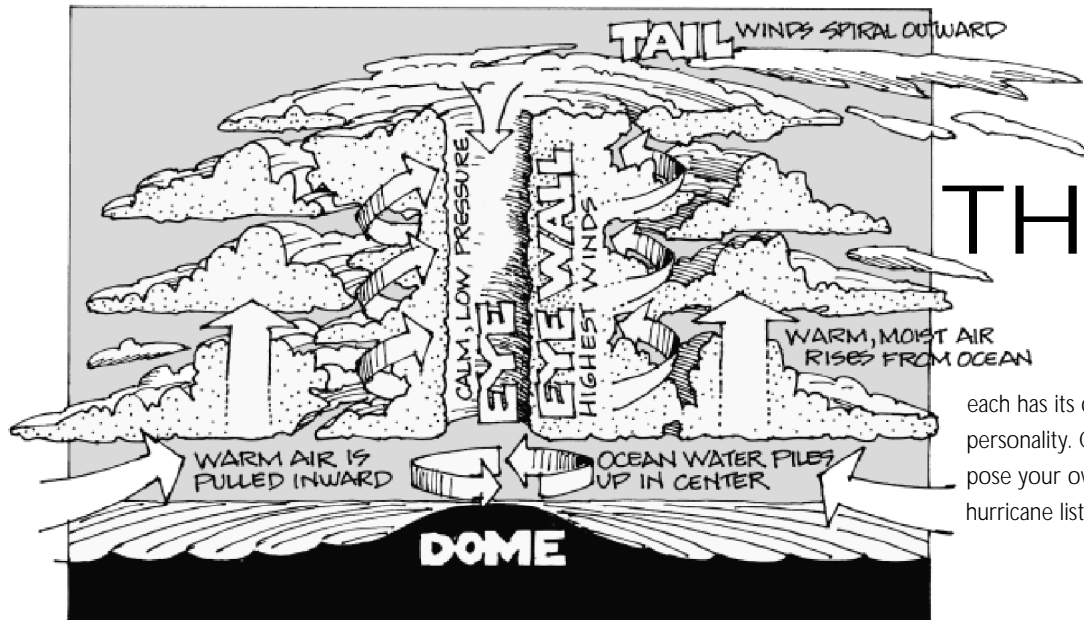
Challenge: Hurricanes are the only natural disasters with their own names. Like people,

Materials: Hurricane List, tropical storms updates

Procedure:

1. Think-up your own "Hurricane List" for a complete year. The names could center on a theme, such as names of famous scientists, sports players, movie stars, etc.

1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Ana	Alex	Arlene	Alberto	Allison	Arthur
Bill	Bonnie	Bret	Beryl	Barry	Bertha
Claudette	Charley	Cindy	Chris	Chantal	Cristobal
Danny	Danielle	Dennis	Debby	Dean	Dolly
Erika	Earl	Emily	Ernesto	Erin	Edouard
Fabian	Frances	Floyd	Florence	Felix	Fay
Grace	Georges	Gert	Gordon	Gabrielle	Gustav
Henri	Hermine	Harvey	Helene	Humberto	Hanna
Isabel	Ivan	Irene	Isaac	Iris	Isidore
Juan	Jeanne	Jose	Joyce	Jerry	Josephine
Kate	Karl	Katrina	Keith	Karen	Kyle
Larry	Lisa	Lenny	Leslie	Lorenzo	Lili
Mindy	Mitch	Maria	Michael	Michelle	Marco
Nicholas	Nicole	Nate	Nadine	Noel	Nana
Odette	Otto	Ophelia	Oscar	Olga	Omar
Peter	Paula	Phillipe	Patty	Pablo	Paloma
Rose	Richard	Rita	Rafael	Rebekah	Rene
Sam	Shary	Stan	Sandy	Sebastien	Sally
Teresa	Tomas	Tammy	Tony	Tanya	Teddy
Victor	Virginie	Vince	Valerie	Van	Vicky
Wanda	Walter	Wilma	William	Wendy	Wilfred



THE NAME GAME

each has its own personality. Compose your own hurricane list.

2. As the Hurricane season approaches, keep an eye on the tropics. Assign and track your storm on a hurricane tracking chart.

Extension Activity: Foreign language classes should complete the entire list with names from countries being studied.