Hurricanes

Hurricanes are large tropical storms that develop in the oceans of the world. Hurricanes gather heat and energy from the warm ocean water. The heat from these warm currents increases the power of the hurricane. Hurricanes that remain over warm water usually get bigger and stronger, but they weaken once they get over land. Hurricanes are storms that actually get names, and a new list of names is created each year. The first hurricane name starts with the letter A, like Ashley, and the names move through the alphabet as more hurricanes appear.

Hurricane clouds move in a circle around a point called the eye, which is the center of the storm. To be called a hurricane, a storm must have wind speeds of at least 74 miles per hour. When a hurricane comes ashore, there are heavy rains, large waves and strong winds that cause damage to buildings, cars and trees. Also, flooding can happen when large waves called storm surges hit the beaches. Storm surges are the main reason people are told to leave coastal towns and move to higher ground when a hurricane approaches. Hurricanes move very slowly though, so people have a chance to get out of their way.

During hurricane season, which begins June 1st and ends November 30th, these large storms sometimes hit United States coastal towns. Usually as these hurricanes approach, there is rain and strong winds. Meteorologists, scientists who study the weather, watch these storms very carefully so they can tell people how strong a hurricane is and where it is heading. 2005 has been a record year for hurricanes. The United States has been hit by more hurricanes and had more damage from these storms than in any other year.

1. A hurricane revolves around which point?

   A. The eye.
   B. The storm surge.
   C. The currents.
   D. The wind point.

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2.   A meteorologist might study:
   A. Clouds and wind.
   B. Rocks and streams.
   C. Adults and children.
   D. Insects and spiders.

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3. Another title for this passage could be:

   A. How to Name a Hurricane

   B. Hurricanes in Florida.

   C. How Meteorologists Track Hurricanes

   D. Interesting Facts about Hurricanes

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4. What is the most dangerous part of the hurricane for people on the coast?

   A. High winds.

   B. Heavy rain.

   C. Lightning.

   D. Flooding.

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5. In what month would a hurricane be most likely to hit the United States?

   A. August

   B. March

   C. December

   D. May

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On a scale between 1 and 10 with 1 being low and 10 being how well did you like this passage?

Didn't Like It At All	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	I Really Liked It

Connections: If you had think of a name for the first hurricane of 2006, what name would you pick? Why did you pick that name?