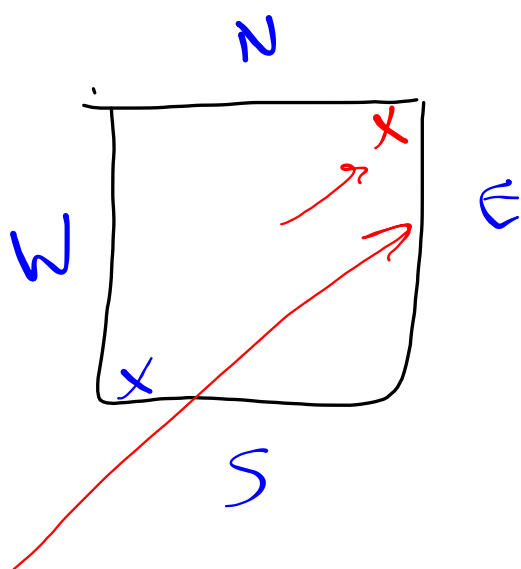


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Hurricanes

cyclone - area of low atmospheric pressure with inward spiralling winds turning counterclockwise (in the northern hemisphere)

hurricane - severe cyclone occurring in the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico, or the eastern Pacific Ocean

Severe cyclones elsewhere are known as typhoons, or tropical cyclones.

- normally originate near the equator, where the temperature is high.
- fed by convection currents (warm, moist air rises, condenses to water vapor, giving off heat, further increasing the rate at which the air rises).

In meteorology, a **cyclone** is an area of low atmospheric pressure characterized by inward spiraling winds. Cyclones form when warm, moist air (evaporating from oceans) rises rapidly, to form storm clouds and precipitation. The continuous movement of heat from the surface to the atmosphere creates a pattern of wind that circulates around the middle.

The center is the area of lowest atmospheric pressure, known as the **eye**. At the eye, the air is calm, and the sky is clear. The eye can extend up to 50 km across. At border of eye is the eye wall, where the winds are the fastest and volume of rainfall is the greatest.

Hurricanes are tropical storms that occur in the Atlantic Ocean. At winds of **119 km/hr** (74 mi/hr), tropical storms officially become classified as hurricanes. Tropical storms in the Indian Ocean and around Australia are called tropical cyclones, and tropical storms in the northwestern Pacific Ocean and the China Sea are called typhoons.

Hurricanes are classified from anywhere between Category 1 (minimal damage) to Category 5 (catastrophic damage).

A major effect of hurricanes are storm surges. Storm surges are huge amounts of water that pile up and are pushed onto the shore. New Orleans, being below sea level, experienced severe storm surges during Hurricane Katrina.

Hurricane winds reach as high as 300 km/hr (less than tornadoes) but can last for as long as two weeks.

Naming of Hurricanes


All tropical storms are named to avoid confusion about identifying and explaining a particular storm. The process of naming tropical storms is as follows:


- storms are named as soon as the winds reach 39mph
- the first tropical storm of the year is given a name beginning with the letter A.

The second tropical storm is given a name beginning with the letter B, etc.

- men's and women's names are alternated
- men's names were not used until 1979
- the names of destructive storms are retired and never used again

⇒ Ex. Andrew, Camille, Hugo, and Katrina

 <http://science.howstuffworks.com/nature/123-how-hurricanes-work-video.htm>

 <http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/video/hurricane-gonzalo-hits-bermuda-26293634>

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