

# Unit 1 Hurricanes

## Grade 4 ELA

### Unit Length and Description:

53 days

Students read literary and informational texts to learn about hurricanes and their impact on Louisiana. Students understand how history involves the sharing of memories and the differences between firsthand and secondhand accounts. Students express their understanding of the impact of hurricanes on Louisiana by writing a first person narrative about an experience in a hurricane based on texts they have read.

### Target Standards:

#### Reading Literature:

**RL.4.2** Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.

**RL.4.3** Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).

#### Reading Informational Text:

**RI.4.2** Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

**RI.4.3** Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.

**RI.4.7** Interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively (e.g., in charts, graphs, diagrams, time lines, animations, or interactive elements on Web pages) and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears.

**RI.4.8** Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text.

**RI.4.9** Integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.

#### Writing:

**W.4.1a-d** Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

a. Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which related ideas are grouped to support the writer's purpose.

b. Provide reasons that are supported by facts and details.

c. Link opinion and reasons using words and phrases (e.g., *for instance, in order to, in addition*).

d. Provide a concluding statement or section related to the opinion presented.

**W.4.2a-e** Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

- a. Introduce a topic clearly and group related information in paragraphs and sections; include formatting (e.g., headings), illustrations, and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
- b. Develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic.
- c. Link ideas within categories of information using words and phrases (e.g., *another, for example, also, because*).
- d. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
- e. Provide a concluding statement or section related to the information or explanation presented.

**W.4.3a-e** Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

- a. Orient the reader by establishing a situation and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally.
- b. Use dialogue and description to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations.
- c. Use a variety of transitional words and phrases to manage the sequence of events.
- d. Use concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely.
- e. Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events.

**W.4.7** Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

**W.4.8** Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; take notes and categorize information, and provide a list of sources.

**W.4.9** Draw relevant evidence from grade-appropriate literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

#### **Language:**

**L.4.1a-g** Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

- a. Use relative pronouns (*who, whose, whom, which, that*) and relative adverbs (*where, when, why*).
- b. Form and use the progressive (e.g., *I was walking; I am walking; I will be walking*) verb tenses.
- c. Use modal auxiliaries (e.g., *can, may, must*) to convey various conditions.
- d. Order adjectives within sentences according to conventional patterns (e.g., *a small red bag* rather than *a red small bag*).
- e. Form and use prepositional phrases.
- f. Produce complete sentences, recognizing and correcting inappropriate fragments and run-ons.
- g. Correctly use frequently confused words (e.g., *to, too, two; there, their*).

**L.4.2a-d** Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

- a. Use correct capitalization.
- b. Use commas and quotation marks to mark direct speech and quotations from a text.
- c. Use a comma before a coordinating conjunction in a compound sentence.
- d. Spell grade-appropriate words correctly, consulting references as needed.

**L.4.3a-b** Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.

- a. Choose words and phrases to convey ideas precisely.
- b. Choose punctuation for effect.

#### **Speaking and Listening:**

**SL.4.4** Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience in an organized manner, using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes; speak clearly at an understandable pace.

**SL.4.5** Add audio recordings and visual displays to presentations when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or themes.

**SL.4.6** Differentiate between contexts that call for formal English (e.g., presenting ideas) and situations where informal discourse is appropriate (e.g., small-group discussion); use formal English when appropriate to task, audience, and situation.

**The following standards are embedded in all units:**

**RL. /RI.4.1** Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

**RL.4.10** By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry, in the grades 4–5 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

**RI.4.10** By the end of year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, in the grades 4–5 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

**RF.4.4** Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

**W.4.4** Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

**W.4.5** With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing.

**W.4.6** With some guidance and support from adults, produce and publish grade-appropriate writing using technology, either independently or in collaboration with others.

**W.4.10** Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

**L.4.4** Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 4 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

a. Use context (e.g., definitions, examples, or restatements in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

b. Use common, grade-appropriate Greek and Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word

(e.g., *telegraph*, *photograph*, *autograph*).

c. Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation and determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases.

**L.4.6** Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal precise actions, emotions, or states of being (e.g., *quizzed*, *whined*, *stammered*) and that are basic to a particular topic (e.g., *wildlife*, *conservation*, and *endangered* when discussing animal preservation).

**Enduring Understandings:**

- Hurricanes are powerful storms that impact individuals and the environment.
- First-hand and second-hand accounts provide valuable information about how storms have impacted our environment and our lives.

**Essential Questions:**

- How do hurricanes impact the environment?
- How can people prepare for a hurricane?