



Hurricanes and Tornadoes

Introduction

Hurricanes and tornadoes are different types of storms that both can cause ample damage to houses and vehicles. Because tornadoes and hurricanes are very dangerous, scientists have been working to prevent destruction to homes when disaster strikes. But, even though these storms are quite similar, they are considerably different.

Appearance

Both hurricanes and tornadoes are cyclonic, so they spin in an orderly rotation that looks like large swirls. Tornadoes can look funnels with the narrow point reaching to the ground and are commonly a couple hundred feet across at the top. They are made up of wind and dirt. On the other hand, aqueous hurricanes are extremely large, usually about 300 miles wide and can spin inward faster than 74 miles per hour.

Frequency in U.S.

Tornadoes are very common in the United States, occurring about 1,300 times per year. Hurricanes come about far less than tornadoes, so usually 1 or 2 every year. Hurricanes are rarer because they form by the equator and take time to travel all the way to the U.S.

Location in U.S.

Hurricanes tend to appear by coast of the Gulf of Mexico, where land is most accessible from the equator. The states affected are Texas, Louisiana, Miami, Alabama, and Florida. Tornadoes form in the Great Plains in a region called "Tornado Valley." These states include Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, and Arkansas. Oddly, some of the states with tornadoes also have hurricanes, like Texas, Louisiana, and Alabama.

Casualties

Tornadoes usually cause 56 deaths per year, but many people escape because tornadoes can be seen before they get too close. Hurricanes, though cause about 47 casualties

per year due to storm surges. Storm surges are when wind from hurricanes blow the water from the ocean to the coast, flooding the land. Since hurricanes form at the equator, people that may be affected are given warning hours to days ahead of time so they can prepare to leave.

Cost and Damage

Both of these storms can cause much damage that can cost a lot of money to repair. Hurricanes are far larger than than tornadoes, thus cause more landfall. Each year, hurricanes can cause up to 15 billion dollars in damage, while tornadoes annually cost about 500 million dollars. In 2005, Hurricane Katrina killed over 1,000 people with a price of 100 billion dollars! They are still repairing buildings to this day.

Conclusion

In conclusion hurricanes and tornadoes are both disastrous storms that can ruin peoples lives. They are also different in many ways, like how tornadoes are made up of dirt and wind but hurricanes are created by water. Even though these storms are quite fascinating, our main focus is to stay safe.

6th Grade Informative Essay Prompt

Write an informative essay to answer the question: In what ways are hurricanes and tornadoes alike and different?

Parent Explanation Informative 6th Grade Score 4

The writing has a sharp focus and a clear purpose. The ideas are developed with examples and specific details from the text. All elements of the prompt are addressed. There is a very strong introduction and conclusion. The ideas are presented in a logical way. Grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization are flawless.

Common Core All-Subject Writing Rubric					
Writing Type(circle one): Argumentative Informative/Explanatory Narrative (ELA only)					
CONTENT X4	The writing has a sharp focus and clarity of purpose. The ideas are developed with examples and specific details including textual evidence and are thoroughly elaborated. All elements of the prompt are addressed.	The writing has a clear central idea and a clear focus. Ideas are developed with textual evidence, even though the development may be uneven. Information is relevant. Most elements of the prompt are addressed.	The writing has a vague central idea; there are shifts in focus or digressions. Ideas are listed, information may be incomplete or irrelevant, textual evidence may be lacking, and there is little development. Some elements of the prompt are <u>not</u> addressed.	The writing has unclear or confusing ideas. The ideas are missing relevant information, there is not enough information, or there is little or no development, and little textual evidence. Significant elements of the prompt are <u>not</u> addressed.	X4
ORGANIZATION	There is a beginning, middle, and end in the writing with strong transitions between ideas. Ideas are presented in a logical order and there is a sense of completion about the writing.	There is a beginning, middle, and end in the writing with simple transitions between ideas. Ideas are presented in a logical order and the writing may have a weak ending.	There is a weak beginning, middle, and end with gaps in ideas. Ideas are presented in random order, there may be significant repetition, and the writing may have no ending.	There is no beginning or end with severe gaps in ideas. Ideas are presented in a random or repetitive order. There may be too little information to demonstrate organization.	
SPELLING & GRAMMAR (Conventions)	The writing exhibits superior control over grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. If there are errors present, they do not appear to be part of a pattern of errors.	The writing exhibits proper control over grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. If there are errors present, they do not appear to be a part of a pattern of errors.	The writing exhibits weak control over grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. The errors minimally affect the meaning of the writing.	The writing exhibits little to no control over grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. The errors greatly affect the meaning of the writing.	
Teacher Feedback:			{{Student Reflection on Back}}		Total Points Earned
					Score
					4