

# Learn About Hurricanes

Use the word bank to fill the empty spaces in the passage.

A hurricane is a huge storm that forms over the open ocean. Hurricanes are made up of strong winds and are usually accompanied by heavy rain. They can create large waves and cause a great amount of damage. Because a hurricane only travels over open ocean waters, the places most at risk are islands and coastal towns. Hurricanes are formed over ocean water that is 80° F or warmer. The warm water provides energy for the hurricane. Winds come together above the water and force the air upward. Warm air, which is hot and moist, rises from the water to create storm clouds. Above the storm clouds, wind flows outward and allows the air to rise. The wind rotates around and around the storm. This storm becomes a hurricane when the cyclone reaches wind speeds of at least 74 miles per hour.

## Word Box

ISLANDS  
MILES  
OCEAN  
WINDS  
RAIN  
WAVES  
SPINNING

