

READ THE PASSAGE Think about what it might be like to be a scientist who studies hurricanes.

Hurricane Plane

You might know that wind vanes tell you which way the wind is blowing and that thermometers tell you how hot or cold it is outside. But did you know that airplanes can be used to study hurricanes?

On November 1, 2007, an aircraft flew through a dangerous hurricane. People on the ground controlled the plane, so nobody was inside it. However, it was full of equipment used to take pictures and record data as the plane passed through the storm.

While large planes can safely fly over a hurricane, looking at a hurricane from above doesn't tell scientists everything they want to know. This is because most hurricanes get their energy from warm water in the ocean. Scientists wanted to learn more about what happens where that warm ocean water meets the air in a hurricane. So, they sent in the small remote-controlled plane. The plane studied how clouds form and measured the temperature of the air and water. It also recorded many images of the storm.

Scientists are still studying the information they collected using the plane. Many hope it will help them better understand how hurricanes form and move so that people can be better prepared when a hurricane comes.

STRATEGY PRACTICE Describe a type of weather you would like to study.

SKILL PRACTICE Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

- When did scientists use the hurricane plane?
 Ⓐ in spring
 Ⓑ during summer
 Ⓒ in fall
 Ⓓ during winter
- What is one lesson from the passage?
 Ⓐ Safety is more important than knowledge.
 Ⓑ Hurricanes are more important than airplanes.
 Ⓒ Equipment is more important than scientists.
 Ⓓ Airplanes are more important than thermometers.
- Why did scientists need a plane that could fly through a hurricane?
 Ⓐ They were afraid to fly above the hurricane.
 Ⓑ They wanted to be closer to where the air meets the water.
 Ⓒ The hurricane was in their way.
 Ⓓ They did not have a plane that could fly higher than a hurricane.
- How do you think the scientists felt when the plane flew through the hurricane?
 Ⓐ disappointed
 Ⓑ angry
 Ⓒ silly
 Ⓓ proud