

Cross-Curricular Cut

Earth Science



Hurricanes

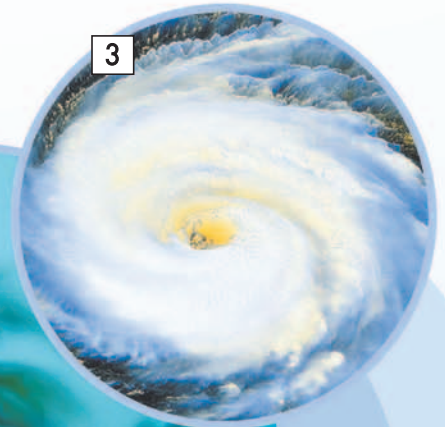
1 Look at the pictures. What information do they reveal about hurricanes? Match the pictures to the words listed below.

- hurricane aftermath
- hurricane eye
- strong winds

1




3



2



Listening & Reading

2  Listen and read the text and label statements 1-3 as T (True) or F (False).

- 1 A tropical cyclone is classified as a hurricane when wind speeds reach a minimum of 74mph.
- 2 A hurricane's power is increased by evaporation of rain water.
- 3 A hurricane rotates in a clockwise direction.

3 Explain the words in bold. Read the text and underline the main facts about hurricanes. Then, tell your partner what you learned about them.

Writing

4 **ICT** Collect information, then write a small text about a major hurricane. Include the following information: • *its name* • *year it occurred* • *what category it was* • *where it occurred* • *what damage it caused*

Many **hurricanes** form in the southern Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, and the eastern Pacific Ocean. Hurricanes are **tropical cyclones**. A tropical cyclone is **classified** as a hurricane when wind speeds reach a minimum of 74mph. A hurricane gains heat and energy from contact with warm ocean waters and its power is increased by the **evaporation** of seawater. This is why hurricanes usually occur between June and November. Hurricanes are usually accompanied by rain, thunder, and lightning.

A hurricane's speed is hard to predict. It is different for every storm. Hurricanes are classified using a categorical system which goes from 1 up to 5, depending on the hurricane's **severity**. The width of a hurricane is usually around 300 miles. It **rotates** counter-clockwise around an inner core, known as the 'eye'. This area has clear skies and slow winds. There is very **low pressure** here, which keeps clouds from forming. When heavy rains, strong winds, and enormous waves come into contact with land, they can do a lot of damage to buildings, trees, and cars.