**Vocabulary: Coriolis Effect**



**Vocabulary**

* Coriolis effect – a deflection of objects moving across a rotating body.
	+ The Coriolis effect explains the deflection of winds as they move across Earth’s surface.
* Deflect – change direction, or bend.
* Frame of reference – the background or object that is assumed to be stationary when analyzing motion.
	+ In our day-to-day lives, we usually assume Earth’s surface is stationary.
	+ A passenger on a moving train might use the train as a frame of reference as they walk to their seat.
* High-pressure system – a weather system in which air pressure is higher than in the surrounding areas.
	+ In a high-pressure system, cool, dry air moves downward and then spreads out across Earth’s surface.
	+ High-pressure systems usually bring cool, sunny weather.
* Low-pressure system – a weather system in which air pressure is lower than in the surrounding areas.
	+ In a low-pressure system, warm, moist air moves upward. Air from surrounding areas moves inward to fill the space.
	+ Low-pressure systems usually bring warm, humid, and cloudy weather.
* Tropical cyclone – a large, rotating storm system with high winds and heavy rains.



**A large hurricane**

* + A tropical cyclone forms over warm oceans. Hot, moist air rises rapidly, forming an extreme low-pressure system. Air rushes in to fill the space, and is bent by the Coriolis effect. The result is a rotating tropical cyclone.
	+ Depending on the location and wind speed, tropical cyclones may be called hurricanes, typhoons, or tropical storms.
* Velocity – a quantity that represents the speed and direction of a moving object.
	+ Velocity is often represented by arrows, or *vectors*.
		- The length of the vector shows the speed of the object.
		- The direction of the vector shows the direction of the motion.