

Vocabulary: Flood and Storm-Proof Homes

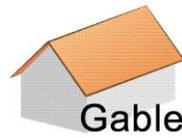


Vocabulary

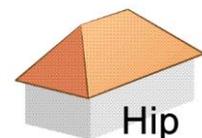
- **Flood** – a natural disaster that happens when a river overflows and water covers the surrounding land.
- **Floodplain** – a flat area next to a river.
 - When a river floods, the floodplain fills with water.
 - Houses built in a floodplain can be damaged in a flood.
- **Foundation** – the base of a building.
- **Frame** – the “skeleton” that supports a house.
- **Gable roof** – a simple roof with two angled sides.
- **Hip roof** – a roof in which all four sides are angled.
- **Hurricane** – a large, rotating storm with strong winds.
 - Hurricane wind speeds are at least 74 miles per hour (119 kilometers per hour).
 - The strongest hurricane winds are greater than 155 miles per hour (250 kilometers per hour).
 - In other parts of the world, hurricanes are called *typhoons*.
- **Levee** – a low wall built of soil along a river.
 - The purpose of a levee is to prevent flooding.
- **Natural disaster** – a natural event that causes major destruction or death.
 - Examples of natural disasters include earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, and fires.
 - Natural disasters are not caused by people.
- **Roof clips** – metal brackets that attach the roof of the house to the walls.
 - Roof clips are also called hurricane clips or hurricane straps.



A floodplain during a flood



Gable



Hip



Huge hurricane near Wilmington, NC

- **Stilts** – a foundation that raises a house above the ground.
 - Houses on stilts are common near beaches and in floodplains.
- **Storm surge** – a rise in seawater level caused by a storm.
 - Winds from the storm can push water towards the shore, causing houses and roads to flood.



Beach house built on stilts