**Vocabulary: Hurricane Motion**



**Vocabulary**

* Air pressure – the force of air on a surface.
	+ Air pressure is equal to the weight of a vertical column of air divided by the area of the base of the column.
	+ Air pressure is measured in millibars (mb).
		- At sea level, air pressure averages 1,013 millibars.
* Coriolis effect – the curving of moving objects, including wind, from a straight path due to Earth’s rotation.
	+ In the Northern Hemisphere, the Coriolis effect causes moving objects to curve to the right. In the Southern Hemisphere, the Coriolis effect causes moving objects to curve to the left.
	+ In addition to causing winds to blow in a curved path, the Coriolis effect causes ocean currents to flow in a curved path.
* Eye – the core of warm, relatively calm air with low pressure and light winds at the center of a *hurricane*.
	+ The most violent storms in a hurricane generally surround the eye in an area known as the *eye wall.*
* Hurricane – a large, rotating tropical storm with wind speeds of at least 74 mph.
	+ In the western Pacific Ocean, hurricanes are called *typhoons*, and in the Indian Ocean and around Australia, hurricanes are called *tropical cyclones*.
	+ Hurricanes are categorized based on their wind speeds:
		- Category 1: 74-95 mph (119-153 km/hr)
		- Category 2: 96-110 mph (154-177 km/hr)
		- Category 3: 111-130 mph (178-209 km/hr)
		- Category 4: 131-155 mph (210-249 km/hr)
		- Category 5: greater than 155 mph (249 km/hr)
* Knot – a unit of speed equal to 1.151 miles per hour.
* Meteorologist – a scientist that studies weather and Earth’s atmosphere.
* Precipitation – water that falls to Earth’s surface.
	+ Types of precipitation include rain, sleet, snow, hail, and mist.