

Hurricane Irma – the worst Atlantic storm ever

Elementary

1 Warmer

Rank these different kinds of weather in order from 1 (the weather you like best) to 6 (the weather you dislike most).

- | | |
|----------|-------------|
| 1. _____ | a. snow |
| 2. _____ | b. rain |
| 3. _____ | c. wind |
| 4. _____ | d. fog |
| 5. _____ | e. sunshine |
| 6. _____ | f. cloud |

2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences with these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers will help you.

flood

destroy

population

rebuild

tropical

1. If something is _____, it is in the hottest parts of the world. (para 1)
2. The _____ of a place is the number of people who live there. (para 2)
3. If you _____ something, you damage it so badly that it no longer exists or can never return to its normal state. (para 2)
4. If people _____ buildings, they build them again after they have been damaged or destroyed. (para 2)
5. A _____ is a large amount of water that covers an area that was dry before. (para 4)

3 Find the information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible.

1. Where did Hurricane Irma start?
2. When did it start?
3. When did it hit the Caribbean island of Barbuda?
4. How strong was the wind at that time?
5. How many people died on the island of Cuba?
6. How many homes in Florida had no electricity?

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5 October, 2017

- 1 A hurricane is a tropical storm with winds of 120km an hour or more. Hurricane Irma started as a storm off the west coast of Africa at the end of August, 2017. As the storm moved across the Atlantic Ocean, it got stronger and stronger and became a dangerous hurricane. It became a Category 5 hurricane, the strongest and the most dangerous, with winds of more than 220km an hour.
- 2 On Tuesday, 5 September, the hurricane hit the Caribbean island of Barbuda, a small island with a population of only 1,650. The wind was now more than 220km an hour. The hurricane destroyed 95% of the buildings on the island, including the hospital, all the schools and the island's airport. It will cost more than \$100 million to rebuild everything.
- 3 In the next few days, Hurricane Irma moved further west. At least 38 people died in the storm, including ten on the island of Cuba. In the United States, the governor of Florida told people to leave the city of Miami. The airport was closed and tens of thousands of people got into their cars and drove north to find somewhere safe from the hurricane.
- 4 Hurricane Irma arrived in Florida on Saturday, 9 September. The winds were less strong now at 160km an hour but they destroyed thousands of buildings and 6.2 million homes in Florida had no electricity. The strong winds and heavy rain also brought floods to Miami and other towns and cities in Florida. Six people died in the storms.
- 5 Hurricane Irma has finally gone. It was the strongest hurricane ever in the North Atlantic and the most expensive. It will cost around \$120 billion to clean up after the storm and rebuild houses, schools, hospitals and roads.

4 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings to the endings to make statements about the text.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. A Category 5 hurricane ... | a. ... the strong winds and heavy rain. |
| 2. A Category 5 hurricane has ... | b. ... to clean up after the storm and rebuild the buildings. |
| 3. Hurricane Irma destroyed ... | c. ... winds of more than 220km an hour. |
| 4. The governor of Florida told people ... | d. ... is the strongest and most dangerous. |
| 5. There were floods in Miami because of ... | e. ... to leave the city of Miami. |
| 6. It will cost around \$120 billion ... | f. ... almost all the buildings on the small island of Barbuda. |

5 Chunks

Rearrange the words to make phrases from the text.

1. of the August end at
2. than an 220km hour more
3. the days in few next
4. thousands people of tens of
5. around cost \$120 it billion will
6. coast the of Africa west off

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6 Two-word phrases

Match the words in the left-hand column with the words in the right-hand column to make expressions from the text.

- | | |
|-------------|----------|
| 1. tropical | a. rain |
| 2. strong | b. storm |
| 3. heavy | c. up |
| 4. clean | d. winds |

7 Comparatives and superlatives

Complete this table with the correct comparatives and superlatives.

	adjective	comparative	superlative
1.	strong		
2.	dangerous		
3.	expensive		

8 Discussion

- Have you ever experienced very bad weather?
 - o What kind of bad weather was it?
 - o Where were you?
 - o Who were you with?
 - o What happened?

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KEY

2 Key words

1. tropical
2. population
3. destroy
4. rebuild
5. flood

3 Find the information

1. off the west coast of Africa
2. at the end of August, 2017
3. on Tuesday, 5 September
4. more than 220km an hour
5. ten
6. 6.2 million

4 Comprehension check

1. d
2. c
3. f
4. e
5. a
6. b

5 Chunks

1. at the end of August
2. more than 220km an hour
3. in the next few days
4. tens of thousands of people
5. it will cost around \$120 billion
6. off the west coast of Africa

6 Two-word phrases

1. b
2. d
3. a
4. c

7 Comparatives and superlatives

1. stronger; strongest
2. more dangerous; most dangerous
3. more expensive; most expensive