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BIG STORM



Hurricane
Katrina



Protecting
New Orleans



Into the Eye
of a Hurricane



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BIG STORM

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Discuss

1. Describe the sequence of events of Hurricane Katrina.
2. Discuss with a partner the steps that were taken after Katrina to prevent future problems of flooding in New Orleans?
3. How does the interview with the Hurricane Hunters relate to the other selections?
4. What information do meteorologists, such as the Hurricane Hunters, provide to better understand weather?
5. What other information do you want to learn about hurricanes? Where could you find answers to your questions?

KATRINA'S PATH

Hurricanes are big, powerful storms. They form over warm ocean water when conditions are just right. That was the case on August 23, 2005, over the Bahamas in the Atlantic Ocean. Warm water from the ocean quickly began to **evaporate** into the sky. The warm moist air rose rapidly. It cooled and **condensed**, or changed into tiny droplets of water. These droplets formed storm clouds. The clouds quickly gathered together. Thunderstorms formed. Like a chain reaction, a series of thunderstorms joined together into a giant storm. The giant storm began to circulate or spin like a monster carousel in the sky. It was big enough to be given a name—Katrina. You can see details of Katrina's path as it developed into a hurricane. See how it traveled westward toward Florida, and then into the Gulf of Mexico.

**MONDAY,
AUGUST 29**

At 6:10 a.m., Katrina slams into one of the largest, most populated coastal cities—New Orleans, Louisiana.

New Orleans

Gulf of Mexico

**SATURDAY,
AUGUST 27**

Hurricane Katrina heads toward the coastal communities in Mississippi and Louisiana.

This satellite image shows Hurricane Katrina as seen from space.



THURSDAY, AUGUST 25

The storm is upgraded to a hurricane—Hurricane Katrina. A hurricane warning is issued for the Florida coast. Katrina passes near Miami, Florida. By midnight over one million homes lose power and 11 lives are lost from the storm.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26

Hurricane Katrina moves into the Gulf of Mexico. The storm becomes stronger, with higher wind speeds and greater size.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24

Swirling storm clouds intensify, or grow stronger, over the Bahamas. At this time, the storm is only a tropical storm.

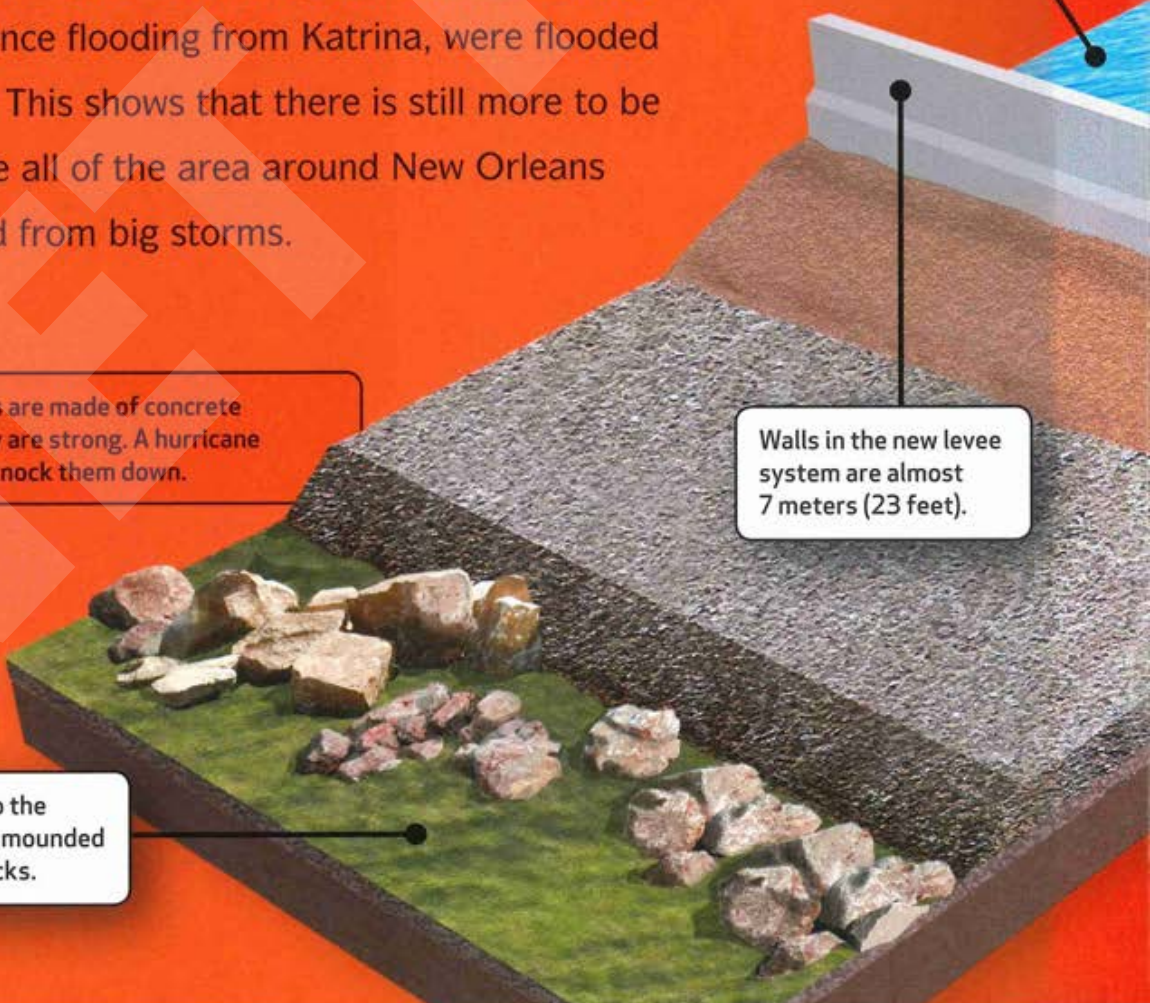


Isaac's IMPACT

Almost seven years to the day that Hurricane Katrina struck, Hurricane Isaac barreled into the Gulf Coast. It was late August, 2012. Weather **forecasts** predicted that Isaac would make landfall on the Gulf Coast and the city of New Orleans. This would be a storm to test the new levee system. So did the new levees hold?

The answer to that question is not an easy one.

It turned out that Isaac was not as powerful as Katrina. New Orleans was safe this time! However, other areas along the Gulf Coast, including some areas that did not experience flooding from Katrina, were flooded from Isaac. This shows that there is still more to be done before all of the area around New Orleans is protected from big storms.



The levee wall should prevent water from reaching land during a flood.

The new levees are made of concrete and steel. They are strong. A hurricane cannot easily knock them down.

Walls in the new levee system are almost 7 meters (23 feet).

The land next to the concrete wall is mounded with soil and rocks.

This is an aerial view of the Lower Ninth Ward. The new levee system includes concrete walls. New homes can be seen in the neighborhood.



Check In What steps have been taken to protect New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina?

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