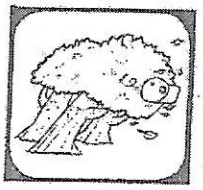
Name _____



HURRICANES

Answer the questions immediately after reading each paragraph.

Hurricanes are huge and devastating storms. They have several names. The inhabitants of Southeast Asia call them typhoons, whereas in Indian Ocean areas and in Australia they are referred to as cyclones. In the Caribbean and in North America, they are called hurricanes. Hurricanes move above vast regions of the oceans and sometimes hit coastal areas. Hurricanes are recognizable by their gigantic whirlwinds that transport heavy rain and winds. These colossal storms last from seven to nine days and cover thousands of kilometres, affecting everything in their path.

1 **Where do hurricanes cause the worst damage?**

_____

2 **Which words among the following refer to large storms? Underline the right answers.**

a) hurricanes b) typhoons c) clouds d) coastal areas e) cyclones

Hurricanes form above oceans. Hot and humid air rises under the Sun's heat. While rising, this hot air creates storm clouds. A sort of chimney forms at the centre of the largest of these clouds. Air is sucked downward along this chimney and then it rises in a spiral. At the top of the chimney, air condenses and produces other clouds, forming a whirlwind. This movement of the rising air acts as a vacuum at the centre of the hurricane. For a hurricane to be formed, water temperature at ocean level must be at least 27 degrees Celsius. As long as the ocean provides it with heat, the chimney of the hurricane continues to suck in air.

3 **What am I? Air is sucked down in me, and then it goes back up in a spiral.**

_____

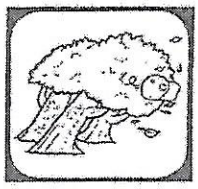
4 **Naomi claims that hurricanes often form above Montréal. Is she right? Explain.**

_____

_____

_____

Name _____



HURRICANES (Continued)

The diameter of a hurricane can be immense, exceeding 100 km. The centre of this gigantic storm is called the eye. It is a calm region where the winds are light. The sky is clear there and there is almost no rain. The eye's diameter is small, about 30 km. A thick layer or "wall" of clouds surrounds the eye. This is the most dangerous part of the hurricane. In this spot winds can attain 250 km/h. The hurricane wall can reach 15 km in height, or twice the height of Mount Everest. Winds on the ocean's surface push the hurricane at an average speed of 25 km/h, leaving death and destruction in its wake.

5 **Describe what is found inside the "wall", at the centre of the hurricane.**

_____

_____

6 **Name one aspect of hurricanes that is very dangerous, causing great destruction.**

_____

The suction effect of a hurricane draws ocean water up to it, sometimes resulting in what is called the storm surge: a rise of water situated beneath the hurricane. When this rise of water arrives on land, it floods vast territories and causes terrible damage and makes thousands of victims. Since 1970, scientists have been categorizing the strength of hurricanes according to the Saffir-Simpson scale. This scale has five levels and takes into account the speed of winds, the height of tides and the type of damage caused by the hurricanes. Thankfully, hurricanes miss us most of the time because they are mainly formed in southern regions.

7 **In your opinion, what type of damage can floods from storm surge cause?**

_____

_____

8 **What in this text has surprised you most?**

_____

_____

_____