## Hurricane Formation

#### **Essential Question**

Why are cyclonic storms dangerous?



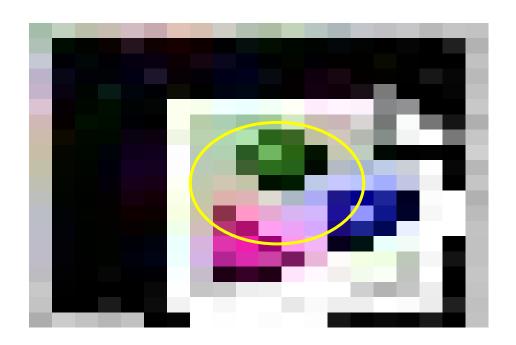
### Vocabulary

hurricane / cyclonic storm



### Vocabulary

eye of hurricane



# Cyclonic Storm Formation

### **Tropical Storms**

- Tropical storms form in a low pressure system when water evaporates off of warm, tropical waters
  - This creates a region of **low pressure** which attracts surrounding air
  - The rotation of the Earth (Coriolis Effect) causes the storm to begin spinning

## Cyclonic Storm

The strongest tropical storm is a hurricane, or a cyclonic storm

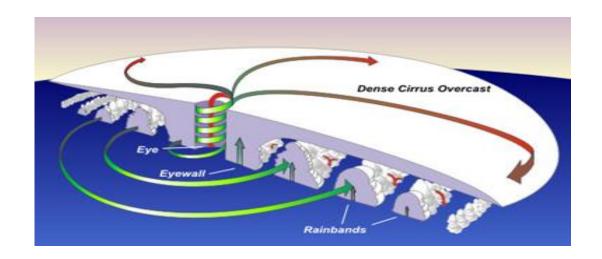
These form when air moves **toward the center** of the storm and **rises** 

into the atmosphere



### Eye

• The **eye** of a hurricane is the center that is **relatively calm** 



#### Hurricanes

• Hurricanes will last until it can no longer produce enough energy to **sustain itself** 

Usually happens when a hurricane moves over

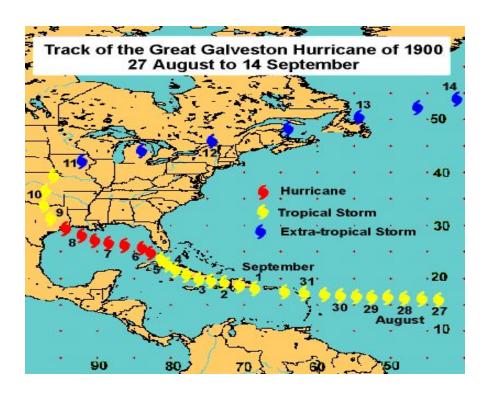
land



## Hurricane Preparation

- Hurricanes can be observed from weather satellites orbiting the Earth
  - Can improve hurricane warnings which can give people time to leave
- During hurricanes you should:
  - Board up the house
  - Stay indoors
  - Have plenty of food and water
  - Stay away from windows

#### Galveston Hurricane



- September 8, 1900 Galveston, Texas
- Category 4
- Greatest loss of life-6,000-12,000 Deaths
- 3<sup>rd</sup> highest number of casualties out of any Atlantic Hurricane
  - Great Hurricane of 1780
  - Hurricane Mitch 1998

#### Hurricane Katrina

- New Orleans, Louisiana.
  Category 3 Hurricane
- 1,836 Deaths, mostly resulted from the levee breaking
- Deadliest US Hurricane since 1928

