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.