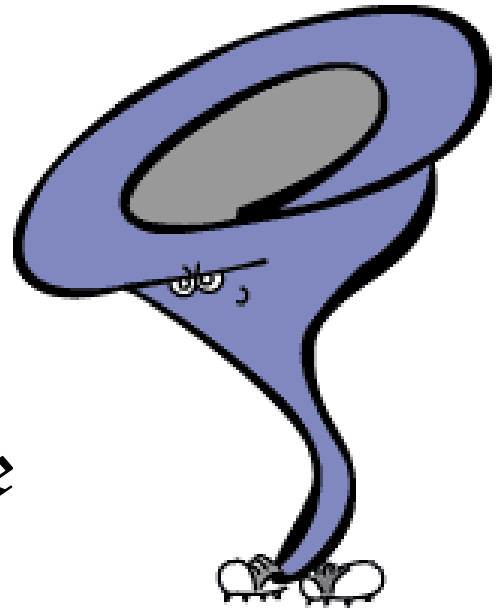


The Tornado Times

2005

Student Activity Guide

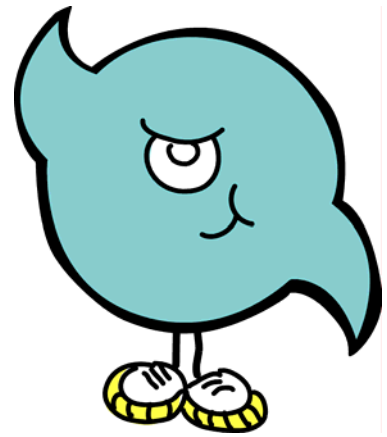


(Brought to you by your local Newspaper In Education department)



“The Tornado Times” and the corresponding activities in this guide adhere to the following Sunshine State Standards: LA.A.1.2-4; LA.A.2.2-4; LA.B.1.2-4; LA.B.2.2-4; LA.C.1.2-4; LA.C.2.2-4; LA.C.3.2-4; LA.D.1.2-4; MA.A.1.2-4, MA.A.3.2-4, MA.E.1.2-4; SC.D.1.2-4; SC.G.1.2-4; SC.H.2.2-4; SC.H.3.2-4; SS.B.1.2-4; SS.B.2.2-4

Charley, Frances, Ivan & Jeanne



Florida's 2004 hurricane season was quiet the first two months, until Tropical Storm Bonnie brushed through the Panhandle. Then the four-hurricane procession began. The drumbeat of hurricanes – impatient Charley, plodding Frances, savage Ivan and copycat Jeanne – spun out of the Atlantic Ocean storm factory and shot toward Florida during a rare run of atmospheric ill fortune.



Think about your personal experiences during the hurricanes. Write a brief essay about those experiences.

- How did you prepare for the storms?
- How did the hurricanes impact your life and family?
- What did you feel before, during and after the storms?
- What did you think before, during and after the storms?
- Did you have any damage to your home?
- Did you lose electricity? How did this impact you and your family?
- What is your most vivid memory from this past hurricane season?



Working in a small group, create a pamphlet for hurricane season 2005. Incorporate information from “The Tornado Times” publication into that pamphlet to create a message to Floridians to be prepared. Use your local newspaper and the Internet to find tips on being prepared for natural disasters, such as hurricanes.

Helpful Web sites

American Red Cross: www.redcross.org

Florida Division of Emergency Management: www.floridadisaster.org

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: www.noaa.gov

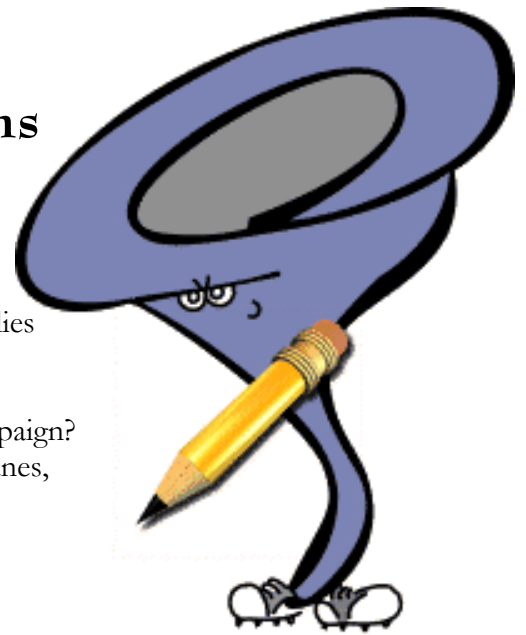
National Hurricane Center: www.nhc.noaa.gov

The Humane Society of the United States: www.hsus.org

Reading Comprehension Questions

Cover Stories

1. When is the statewide tornado drill?
2. In your own words, what is the main idea of the “Weather Bullies On The Loose Again” article?
3. What should you do if you encounter a weather bully?
4. What is the message of the “Turn Around Don’t Drown” campaign?
5. When schools closed across Florida following the 2004 hurricanes, what organization did many students volunteer to help?



Lightning

1. Why are young people in more danger of being killed by lightning than older people?
2. On average in Florida, how many people die each year from lightning strikes?
3. Why is July usually the worst month for lightning deaths in Florida?
4. Why are boating, beach going or fishing in a canal potentially dangerous activities when lightning is near?
5. How can you remain safe if you can see lightning or hear thunder, even in the distance?
6. What is the 30-30 rule?

Rip Currents

1. What is a rip current?
2. Why are rip currents dangerous?
3. If you are caught in a rip current, what is the best escape?
4. What is a surf forecast and who issues it?
5. How can you save someone else from a rip current without putting yourself in danger?

Tornadoes

1. During which months does Florida have the most tornadoes?
2. Why is a tornado more dangerous at night than it would be in the afternoon?
3. Why is it important to have a NOAA weather radio in your home?
4. What should you do if you hear the roaring and rumbling of a tornado?
5. What are the similarities and differences between summer and fall tornadoes and winter and spring tornadoes?
6. In your own words, explain the Fujita Scale.
7. What does every school have in order to warn the administrators about possible tornadoes?

Reading Comprehension Questions



Thunderstorms

1. How often do the inland areas of central Florida usually experience thunderstorms annually?
2. What three ingredients are needed to make a thunderstorm?
3. When conditions are right for a thunderstorm, is the updraft warmer, cooler or the same temperature as the air outside of the cloud?
4. Besides rain, what other elements can thunderstorms produce?
5. What is the difference between a warning and a watch?
6. Explain the process of how thunderstorms form.
7. What is a downburst?
8. Why are downbursts dangerous?

Hurricanes & Flooding

1. What are the top five lessons learned from the 2004 hurricane season?
2. In your own words, explain the Saffir-Simpson Scale.
3. Explain a hurricane watch and a hurricane warning.
4. What causes a storm surge to occur?
5. What are the reasons flooding occurs?
6. Why are moving floodwaters dangerous to drivers?
7. What are three things you should stay away from when flooding occurs? Explain why these three items are dangerous.
8. How do you estimate the rainfall from a hurricane?

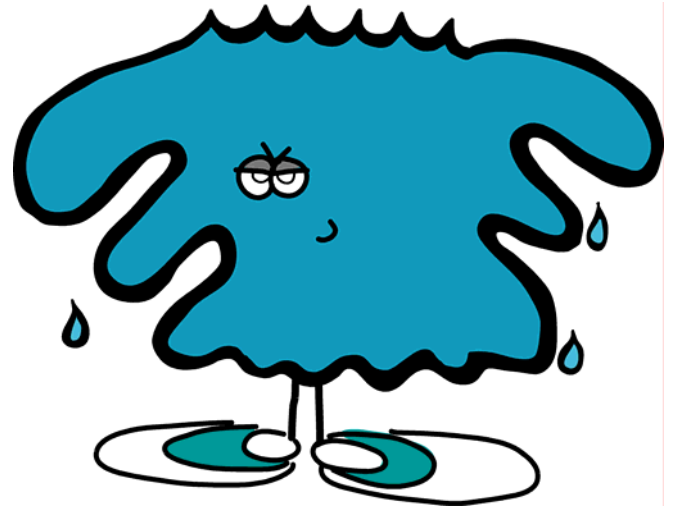
Extreme Temperatures

1. How much have temperatures in Florida risen over the past few decades?
2. What organization issues heat advisories and warnings?
3. When is ultraviolet radiation the strongest?
4. Why is ultraviolet radiation dangerous?
5. In your own words, explain what safety actions you should take when it is hot.
6. How can you protect yourself from cold weather when you are indoors?

Wildfires

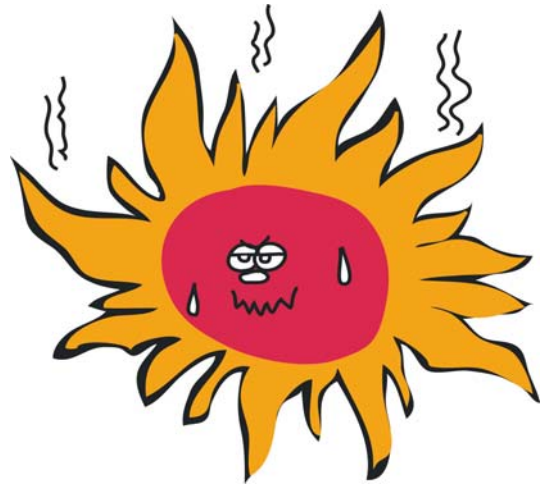
1. How do wildfires start?
2. How does lack of rain contribute to wildfires?
3. What is a prescribed burn?
4. What is the main tool that firefighters use to fight wildfires?
5. Name three fire-resistant plants. Explain why it is important to plant fire-resistant plants around your home.

Hazardous Weather Newspaper Activities



- ✦ The main idea of an article or reading passage is usually evident in the first or second paragraph. The last paragraph usually wraps up the article. Block out the titles on each article in the hazardous weather NIE publication. Determine the main ideas of each article. Next find an article in the newspaper about weather. Find the main ideas in the newspaper article.
- ✦ When is the rainy season in Florida? What is the average chance of rain this week? Use the information in the 5-day forecast in your newspaper to calculate your answer.
- ✦ Florida's tropical atmosphere and sea breezes provide the perfect recipe for the making of thunderstorms. Three ingredients are needed — moisture, an unstable atmosphere and lift. Thunderstorms are part of life in Florida. They are nature's way of providing badly needed rainfall. Read about the hydrologic cycle on the Internet. Think about the importance of thunderstorms to the hydrologic cycle. Explain, in a brief essay, the importance of thunderstorms to Florida's hydrologic cycle. Look for articles in the newspaper to support your point of view.
- ✦ Both flooding and droughts are common in Florida, as well as in other parts of the country. Both types of disasters bring different problems to individuals, towns and the economy. Research floods and droughts at your school media center or local library. Look for recent examples of floods and droughts in the newspaper or on the Internet. Create a timeline of floods and droughts to include with your research information that you will present to your class in the form of an oral presentation.
- ✦ With your classmates, make a list of words, such as El Niño, that have foreign origins but are now part of the English language. Discuss how those words might have become part of our language. Look for 10 words of foreign origin in the newspaper. Cut out these words, paste them on a piece of construction paper and share them with your class.

Hazardous Weather Newspaper Activities

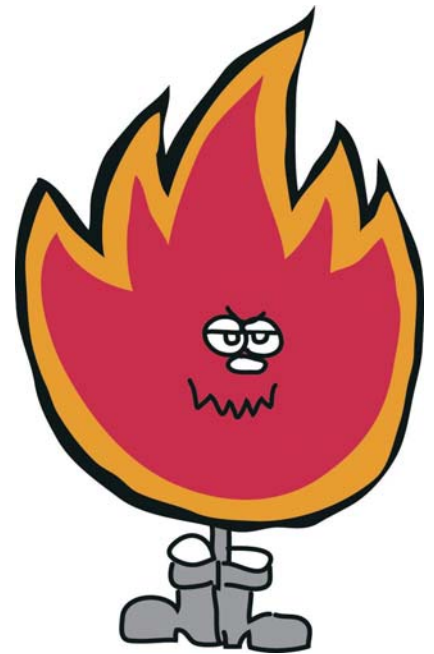


- * Find the extreme high and low temperatures for today in the newspaper. What is the difference between them? What is the average of these two temperatures? Does this average correlate with the temperature around the country? Monitor these temperatures for a week and compare the temperatures in your county to the rest of the country. Graph your results.
- * Much of the water in Florida comes from wells drilled into the Floridan Aquifer. These wells are fed by rainwater. Rainstorms bring much needed water to plants and animals. Find 15 items in the newspaper – pictures, words, cartoons – that contain water. Make a list of these 15 things. Share the list with your class.
- * Read the articles in the NIE hazardous weather publication. Choose one of the articles to analyze. Think about the kind of evidence the author uses the most: scientific facts, personal experience, opinion, statements from experts. Does the author rely on the reader's common knowledge of the subject? What other kinds of evidence does the author use? Explain your analysis using specific examples from the article.
- * Use the weather page in your newspaper to determine the weather in the nation. In which areas of the country do you find a forecast for showers, thunderstorms, rain, flurries, snow and ice? Use the map symbol key. Chart your findings.
- * We all know that weather has an impact on our moods, our behavior and our activities. Creating a journal for the purpose of recording your plans and activities and any changes in these due to the weather is one way to discover how you change when the weather changes. Keep a weather journal for 30 days. Be sure to include the temperature and weather conditions at the top of each page. Also, be sure to include your activities.
- * You and your family need a family disaster plan. There is not much room in the evacuation shelter, so you need to plan carefully. Choose 10 items to take with you to the shelter. In the newspaper, find advertisements and pictures of the 10 items you will take to the shelter. Cut out the advertisements and pictures and paste them on a piece of paper. Next to each item, briefly explain why you need to take it with you.

Disaster Supplies Kit

Newspaper Scavenger Hunt

Look for pictures or words in the newspaper of the following items for your disaster supplies kit. Create a collage, diorama or poster with the items you find.



- ◆ Bottled water
- ◆ 10 cans of food
- ◆ High-energy foods such as peanut butter, crackers and trail mix
- ◆ An extra set of clothes including shoes or boots
- ◆ Paper/plastic plates and cups
- ◆ Battery-operated radio
- ◆ Batteries
- ◆ Flashlight
- ◆ Non-electric can opener
- ◆ Utility knife
- ◆ Fire extinguisher
- ◆ Tape
- ◆ Aluminum foil
- ◆ Paper and pencils
- ◆ Toilet paper
- ◆ Soap
- ◆ Household chlorine bleach
- ◆ Plastic garbage bags

Tornado Times Crossword Puzzle

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Tornado Times Crossword Clues

Across

5. This forecast rates the risk of rip currents from low to high.
6. Important family documents should be kept in this type of container.
8. Dangerous thunderstorms can produce these.
11. When a tornado warning is issued, or a tornado is imminent, move to this type of room.
13. This many hurricanes struck Florida during the 2004 hurricane season.
15. Florida's 2004 hurricane season taught people to be this.
17. More tropical weather systems hit this state than any other in our country.
18. This is issued if the conditions are right for hazardous weather to form.
19. _____ Weather Radio.
21. Stay away from this when lightning is near.
22. The Florida Division of Emergency _____.
24. This was the greatest weather-related killer in Florida in 2004.
27. You are not out of danger for a hurricane even if you do not live here.
30. Never drive into this type of water.
32. This type of burn is a carefully set and controlled fire.
34. American Red _____.

Down

1. Make this type of family plan.
2. This type of atmosphere is needed for a thunderstorm to form.
3. These are the first sign of a medical heat emergency.
4. Stay away from these power lines.
5. Ultraviolet radiation can cause damage to these body parts.
7. Most wildfires start this way.
9. These spotters are trained to identify and report severe weather.
10. Lack of rain.
12. This type storm has winds of 39-73 miles per hour.
14. Beware of the weather _____.
16. Turn around; don't do this.
17. Tornadoes are measured by this scale.
20. Practice makes this.
23. This is a pellet or ball of ice formed inside thunderstorm clouds.
25. If you see lightning, you can tell how far away it is by counting these between the lightning and hearing thunder.
26. Young people in Florida are more frequently killed by this type of weather than any other age group.
28. Hurricanes can and do change this.
29. Florida's National Weather Office will conduct a drill for this hazard on Feb. 23, 2005.
31. Tornadoes are very dangerous when they occur during this time of day.
33. Tornadoes during this season are usually small.

Tornado Times Crossword Answers

Across

- 5. Surf
- 6. Waterproof
- 8. Floods
- 11. Interior
- 13. Four
- 15. Prepared
- 17. Florida
- 18. Watch
- 19. NOAA
- 21. Water
- 22. Management
- 24. Rip currents
- 27. Coast
- 30. Moving
- 32. Prescribed
- 34. Cross

Down

- 1. Disaster
- 2. Unstable
- 3. Heat cramps
- 4. Downed
- 5. Skin and eyes
- 7. Accidentally
- 9. Skywarn
- 10. Drought
- 12. Tropical
- 14. Bullies
- 16. Drown
- 17. Fujita
- 20. Perfect
- 23. Hail
- 25. Seconds
- 26. Lightning
- 28. Direction
- 29. Tornado
- 31. Night
- 33. Summer

What is NIE?

Newspaper In Education (NIE) is a cooperative effort between schools and your community newspaper to promote the use of newspapers as an educational resource.

NIE provides schools with class sets of newspapers, plus curricula, to teachers or schools. The cost of providing your community newspaper to schools is paid for through the sponsorships of generous community-minded companies, foundations, individuals and government agencies, such as the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

Newspapers and NIE curricula are rich educational tools, offering teachers an up-to-the-minute, living text and source for countless projects in virtually every content area. Newspapers provide a vital link to the real world for students who too often do not realize the value of their academic programs. The study of today's critical issues, events and people helps students understand the past and see a role for themselves in their future world. Student interests, from sports to entertainment, become the arena for practicing basic enrichment skills and understanding concepts as students use statistics and other data to compute, invest and comparison-shop.

NIE provides real-life learning, a major focus of the Florida Comprehensive Achievement Test (FCAT). The newspaper offers a living, changing textbook that brings the real world into the classroom. The newspaper is that essential link that connects the classroom to the past, present and future.

For more information about your newspaper's NIE department, contact your local newspaper.

What is FNIEC?

Florida Newspapers in Education Coordinators Inc. (FNIEC) is an organization of newspaper professionals, which promotes reading, particularly for young people. The Newspaper Association of America (NAA) has established the primary objectives for FNIEC.

FNIEC Objectives:

- Develop an ability to read the newspaper critically.
- Develop a desire to read reflectively.
- Develop a concern for public issues.
- Develop an understanding of the free press in our society.
- Encourage involvement in the self-governing process.
- Promote the use of the newspaper as a textbook in education

For more information and to view member newspapers, log onto
www.floridanewspaperineducation.org

This teacher guide was written and researched by Jodi Pushkin and Felicia Brunson.
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