

### Do the Facts "Ring True"?

The most destructive storms on earth are hurricanes and tornadoes. How are these storms alike and different? Read the fact phrases below. Research to decide if each phrase describes a tornado, a hurricane, or both storms. Cross off the fact and rewrite it under the correct heading. One has been done for you.

#### TORNADOES

1. descend from storm clouds

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

11. \_\_\_\_\_

- descend from storm clouds
- develop where sea temperature is at least 82°F
- form over the ocean in tropical regions
- can form in minutes with little or no warning
- travel in an unpredictable path
- usually last less than an hour
- spiral-shaped wind path
- contain winds up to 400–500 mph
- upward and inward flowing spiral of air
- warning can be issued several days in advance
- occur all over the world, but mostly in United States
- rotating funnel-shaped cloud
- have a calm eye, or center
- average 200–300 yards across
- doughnut-shaped storm
- center is like a vacuum
- contain winds of 75–200 mph
- weaken as they move over land
- 50–100 miles in diameter
- form in a line of thunderstorm clouds as powerful columns of wind
- meteorologists can forecast this storm's strength
- generally move along at 40 mph
- can uproot trees, destroy homes, and toss people and objects such as cars and appliances
- travel west or northwest at an average speed of 10 mph

#### HURRICANES

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

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9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

#### BOTH

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Bonus Box:** On the back of this page, write about a time you witnessed a serious storm.

