Hurricane Katrina 23–30 August 2005—Tropical Cyclone Report

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Katrina was an exceptionally powerful (deadly) hurricane that struck a wide swath of the southeastern United States. The hurricane caused widespread damage and death in the coastal areas of five southern states and in the U.S. territories of the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The storm made landfall near the U.S.-Mexico border as a Category 3 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale. After reaching Category 5 intensity over the central Gulf of Mexico, Katrina weakened to a Category 3 hurricane as it moved ashore near Port Fourchon, Louisiana. The storm then crossed the Mississippi River basin, causing widespread flooding. By the time Katrina reached Mississippi, it had become a Category 1 hurricane. The storm continued to weaken as it moved over land, and it was downgraded to a Category 0 tropical depression by the time it struck the Florida Panhandle on August 30. The hurricane caused widespread destruction and damage in the region, with the greatest impact in the New Orleans area. The storm caused at least 1,836 deaths and resulted in over $108 billion in damage. The hurricane was a reminder of the devastating impact that hurricanes can have on coastal communities and the need for effective preparedness and response measures.

How Was This Hurricane Katrina Image Created?

The image of Hurricane Katrina on the front of this poster was created using data from the Imager instrument on NOAA's GOES-12 satellite and from the MODIS instrument on NASA's Terra satellite. The image was created using archive data from the MODIS instrument corresponding to the red, green, and blue channels of the visible and infrared light. The image was then processed to enhance the contrast and detail of the storm's track and the surrounding ocean. The image was then colorized to make it more visible and to highlight the details of the storm's track and the surrounding ocean.

Informational Web Sites

http://www.illumina.com
http://www.nasa.gov
http://www.noaa.gov
http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/
http://www.spaceplace.nasa.gov

NOAA’s Tracking and Predicted Tracking of Hurricane Katrina

http://www.weather.gov/nwr/

Tracking A Monster Storm

Student Activity

Objective:

Students will map the track of hurricane Katrina.

Materials:

• Track of hurricane Katrina

Procedure:

1. Review the instructions on the map of hurricane Katrina.

2. Follow the instructions on the map of hurricane Katrina.

3. Map the track of hurricane Katrina.

4. Compare the track of hurricane Katrina with the map of hurricane Katrina.

5. Answer the questions on the map of hurricane Katrina.

6. Submit the completed map of hurricane Katrina.

Assessment:

• Map of hurricane Katrina

• Track of hurricane Katrina

• Hurricane Katrina

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