

Implications of Human-Environment Interaction: Teacher Key

Hurricane Origins

For the 38,000 inhabitants of Galveston, Texas, September 8, 1900, **began** the same as any other. While an early morning account of a tropical hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico **ran** on page three of Galveston's local newspaper, it **was** little warning for the arrival of Galveston's Great Storm of 1900—one of the deadliest weather disasters in United States history.

*Hurricanes originate in tropical or subtropical waters between Africa and the Americas, travel east to west, and typically make landfall along the coastal regions of either the Gulf of Mexico or Atlantic Ocean. Hurricanes are one of the most destructive forces in nature. Galveston's hurricane of 1900 **claimed** the lives of at least 6,000 people on the southeast Texas coastline, **left** 10,000 homeless, and **destroyed** more than 3,600 buildings.*

High Winds and Surge

Because hurricane force winds are 100 miles per hour or more, houses along the coastlines of the Gulf of Mexico or Atlantic Ocean typically follow stricter building codes. For example, L-joint brackets secure the studs in the walls to the roof so that the roof is less likely to blow off. Storm shutters protect windows against flying debris.

*If a hurricane makes landfall, residents also encounter tidal surge and storm surge. The surge **produced** by Hurricane Ike in Galveston in September, 2008, **flooded** homes and buildings on the coastline and in downtown Galveston. In some cases, entire houses on the coastline **vanished**. In 2005, the surge **produced** by Hurricane Katrina **breached** New Orleans' levees, resulting in catastrophic damage to the area.*

Despite a hurricane's great potential for damage and loss of life, there are usually no more than a dozen named storms each year. Only three or four hurricanes typically make landfall and cause extensive damage.

Key

- General statements are *italicized*.
- Specific statements are plain.
- Present tense verbs are underlined.
- Past tense verbs are in **bold**.