Storm Chasers

What is it like to fly into the middle of a hurricane?

Chad Gibson isn't afraid of **hurricanes**. In fact, he flies straight into them! Hurricanes are strong storms that form over oceans. Their winds can blow more than 155 miles per hour.

U.S. Air Force
Chad Gibson collects data during a hurricane.

Gibson is part of the Hurricane Hunters. Their job is to fly airplanes into storms. Hurricane Hunters are part of the U.S. Air Force Reserve. They help scientists **predict**, or guess, where the storms are headed.

This year [2009], the fliers have zipped through several spinners, including Hurricane Jimena (hee-MAY-nuh). That storm hit Mexico in September. Scientists predict that even more storms are on their way. Hurricane season lasts from June 1 to November 30.

Flying through a storm is almost like being surrounded by a giant wall of clouds, Gibson says. "There are times when … you really can't see anything else."
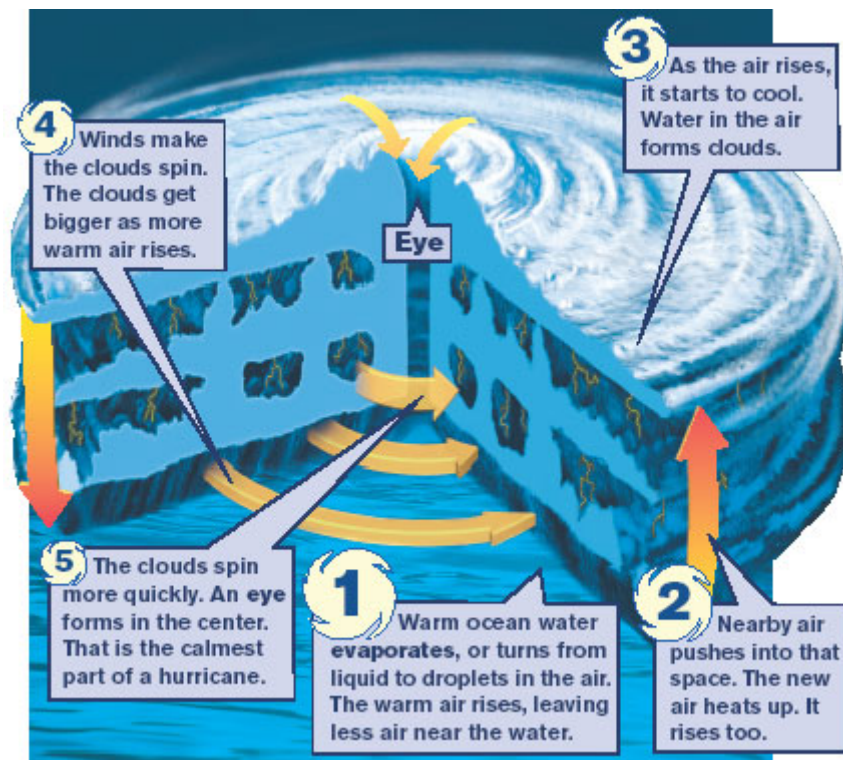
Hurricane Hunters fly through storms for more than just the view. They use tools to study the hurricane's temperature and wind speed. Those details can help determine how big a storm is and whether it will become stronger.

Gibson and his team send the data to **meteorologists** on land. Those are scientists who study weather. They figure out how the storms will affect the United States.

"The data we collect [help save] thousands of lives," Gibson told *WR News*. And that isn't the only plus, he says. "Going into the center of the storm is just incredible."

Spin Cycle

Mother Nature knows how to whip up a perfect storm. It takes just the right amount of warm water and wind. Here's how a hurricane happens.

Spin Cycle: John Kocon; Hurricane icons: iStockphoto

Name: _____   Date: _____

1. What information do the Hurricane Hunters collect as they fly through hurricanes?

    A Hurricane Hunters collect information about Hurricane Jimena.
    B Hurricane Hunters collect information about temperature and wind speed.
    C Hurricane Hunters collect information about the eye of the storm.
    D Hurricane Hunters collect information about water droplets.

2. Which of the following does the author describe last in the passage?

    A The author describes the data that Chad Gibson collects.
    B The author describes how to fly into a hurricane safely.
    C The author describes how a hurricane happens.
    D The author describes the work of the Hurricane Hunters.

3. The passage implies that

    A Chad Gibson will stop being a Hurricane Hunter sometime soon
    B the Hurricane Hunters do not like hurricanes that are too large
    C Chad Gibson loves the thrill of his job as a Hurricane Hunter
    D being a Hurricane Hunter is an easy job

4. Read the following sentences: "'Flying through a storm is almost like being surrounded by a giant wall of clouds,' Gibson says. 'There are times when … you really can't see anything else.'"

In these sentences, what does the word **surrounded** mean?

    A having something all around you
    B flying straight through
    C learning new things
    D whipping up a storm

5. What would be another good title for this passage?

    A How to Be a Hurricane Hunter
    B What You Need to Know About Hurricanes
    C Hurricanes: A Special Kind of Storm
    D Flying into Hurricanes

6. What is the job of the Hurricane Hunters?

_____

_____

_____

7. What would be a good word to describe Chad Gibson, and why?

_____

_____

_____

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Hurricane Hunters fly through storms _____ that they can send information about the storms to weather scientists.

     A so
     B but
     C although
     D however

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

Chad Gibson flies into hurricanes to help scientists predict the direction of the storms.

Who? <u>Chad Gibson</u>
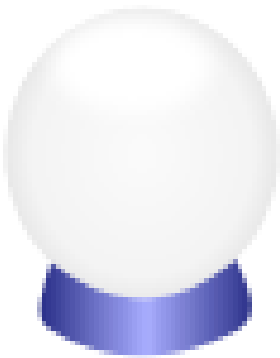
(does) What? _____

Why? _____

10. Read the vocabulary word and definition below, and complete questions 10a, 10b, and 11.

Vocabulary Word: predict (pre · dict): to say what might happen in the future.

10a. Read the sentences below and underline the word **predict**.

1. It is hard to predict the weather.

2. At the end of every chapter, the teacher asked the students to predict what would happen next.

3. If I had to predict, I would say that my sister will become a veterinarian, because she loves animals.

4. Sometimes people go to a fortune-teller to have their future predicted.

5. I was so surprised by the ending of the movie because I never would have predicted it.

10b. Which object is sometimes used to predict the future?

11. If you tell your friend about the dream you had last night, are you predicting? Why or why not?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 690

Featured Text Structure: Descriptive – the writer explains, defines, or illustrates a concept or topic

Passage Summary: The passage describes the work of Chad Gibson, who is a Hurricane Hunter with the U.S. Air Force. His job is to fly into hurricanes to collect data that will help scientists predict the course of the storms.

1. What information do the Hurricane Hunters collect as they fly through hurricanes?

     A Hurricane Hunters collect information about Hurricane Jimena.
     B **Hurricane Hunters collect information about temperature and wind speed.**
     C Hurricane Hunters collect information about the eye of the storm.
     D Hurricane Hunters collect information about water droplets.

2. Which of the following does the author describe last in the passage?

     A The author describes the data that Chad Gibson collects.
     B The author describes how to fly into a hurricane safely.
     C **The author describes how a hurricane happens.**
     D The author describes the work of the Hurricane Hunters.

3. The passage implies that

     A Chad Gibson will stop being a Hurricane Hunter sometime soon
     B the Hurricane Hunters do not like hurricanes that are too large
     C **Chad Gibson loves the thrill of his job as a Hurricane Hunter**
     D being a Hurricane Hunter is an easy job

4. Read the following sentences: "'Flying through a storm is almost like being surrounded by a giant wall of clouds,' Gibson says. 'There are times when … you really can't see anything else.'"

In these sentences, what does the word **surrounded** mean?

     A **having something all around you**
     B flying straight through
     C learning new things
     D whipping up a storm

5. What would be another good title for this passage?

     A How to Be a Hurricane Hunter
     B What You Need to Know About Hurricanes
     C Hurricanes: A Special Kind of Storm
     D **Flying into Hurricanes**

6. What is the job of the Hurricane Hunters?

Suggested answer: The Hurricane Hunters fly planes into storms to gather data that will help scientists predict the direction of the storms. [paragraphs #2, 4]

7. What would be a good word to describe Chad Gibson, and why?

Suggested answer: "Adventurous" would be a good word to describe Chad Gibson because he flies into hurricanes and because he seems to enjoy the excitement of flying in a storm. [paragraphs #5, 7]

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Hurricane Hunters fly through storms _____ that they can send information about the storms to weather scientists.

- **A** so
- **B** but
- **C** although
- **D** however

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

Chad Gibson flies into hurricanes to help scientists predict the direction of the storms.

Who? Chad Gibson

(does) What? **flies into hurricanes**

Why? **to help scientists predict the direction of the storms**

10. ReadWorks recommends that you teach this vocabulary word to the whole class out loud using the four steps listed below.

Vocabulary Word: predict

Step 1: Introduce the word

    a. Teacher writes the word on the board and divides it into syllables: (pre · dict)

    b. Teacher says: "This word is predict. What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "predict."]

Step 2: Provide a child-friendly definition

    a. Teacher says: "To predict is to say what might happen in the future."

    b. Teacher says: "The passage states that the Hurricane Hunters help scientists predict where the storms are headed. This means that the Hurricane Hunters help scientists say where the storms are headed in the future. To predict is to say what might happen in the future."

    c. Teacher says: "What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "predict."]
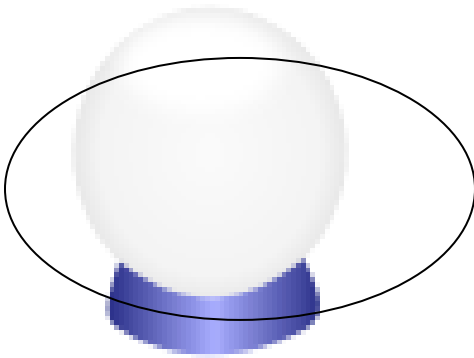
Step 3: Practice the word

Teacher provides examples and additional opportunities to repeat the word. Read the first sentence out loud to your students. Begin reading it again and when you come to the vocabulary word, prompt students to say the vocabulary word out loud. Then, finish reading the sentence out loud to your students.

10a.   1. It is hard to <u>predict</u> the weather.

2. At the end of every chapter, the teacher asked the students to <u>predict</u> what would happen next.

3. If I had to <u>predict</u>, I would say that my sister will become a veterinarian, because she loves animals.

4. Sometimes people go to a fortune-teller to have their future <u>predicted</u>.

5. I was so surprised by the ending of the movie because I never would have <u>predicted</u> it.

Step 4: Check for student understanding

This step can be completed as a whole class activity or as an independent practice.

10b. Which object is sometimes used to predict the future?

11. If you tell your friend about the dream you had last night, are you predicting? Why or why not?

Suggested answer: No, because I am probably not saying what might happen in the future.

Suggested Additional Vocabulary: determine, data, evaporate