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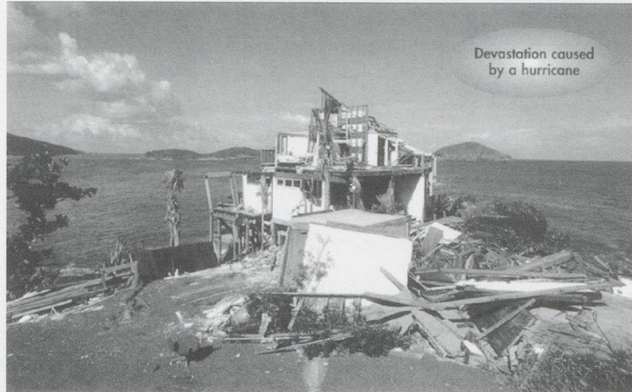
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Children's Page

Where does a hurricane begin?

A hurricane is a powerful, swirling storm that begins over a warm sea. Hurricanes form in waters near the equator and then they move towards the Poles. The winds of a hurricane swirl around a calm central zone called the eye, surrounded



by a band of tall, dark clouds called the eyewall. The eye is usually about 16 to 32km (10 to 20 miles) in diameter

and is free of rain and large clouds.

In the eyewall, large changes in pressure create the hurricane's strongest winds.

These winds can reach nearly 320km (200 miles) per hour. Damaging winds may extend 400km (250 miles) from the eye.

FACT FILE:

Approximately 85 hurricanes, typhoons and tropical cyclones occur in a year throughout the world. Hurricanes are most common during the summer and early autumn.



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Swiss
International
Air Lines

Level 6
18 Shortland St
Auckland

Ph (09) 977 2238
Fax (09) 977 2235
Website www.swissairlines.com
Email swiss@walshegroup.co.nz