

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Story of Hurricane Katrina Answer Key

1. Katrina began as a tropical depression over the **Bahamas** and grew stronger because of the **warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico**.
2. Katrina reached **Category 5** with winds over **160 mph**.
3. It made landfall near **New Orleans, Louisiana**, as a **Category 3 hurricane**.
4. The worst damage came from the **storm surge**, which overwhelmed levees.
5. About **80%** of New Orleans was flooded.
6. Over **1,800 people** died.
7. One major lesson was the need for **better disaster preparation and response systems**.
8. **Critical Thinking (Sample Answer)**: I would evacuate early if told to, gather emergency supplies, protect my home, and stay informed by tracking the storm's updates.