

Name _____



Hurricane Cause-and-Effect Chains

Hurricanes are powerful storms, but they all begin with one key ingredient: **warm ocean water**. In this activity, you will trace how that warm water triggers a series of events that eventually form a hurricane.

Directions: Read each **cause** in the chain below. Decide what the **effect** is, and then what that effect causes next. Fill in the blanks to complete the cause-and-effect chain from warm ocean water all the way to hurricane formation.

Chain 1: From Ocean Heat to Rising Air

- **Cause:** The Sun heats the surface of the ocean.
- **Effect:** _____

Chain 2: From Rising Air to Clouds

- **Cause:** Warm, moist air rises from the ocean surface.
- **Effect:** _____

Chain 3: From Clouds to Thunderstorms

- **Cause:** Water vapor in the rising air cools and condenses.
- **Effect:** _____

Chain 4: From Thunderstorms to a Spinning System

- **Cause:** Thunderstorms cluster together and winds begin to rotate due to Earth's spin (Coriolis effect).
- **Effect:** _____

Chain 5: From Rotation to a Hurricane

- **Cause:** The storm system strengthens as warm ocean water continues to fuel it.
- **Effect:** _____

Challenge Question: Why is warm ocean water considered the "fuel" of a hurricane? Write your answer in 2-3 sentences.