

Name _____

When the Storm Struck: A Case Study

In this case study, you'll examine a **real-world event**, analyze its causes, effects, and responses, and think about how future impacts could be reduced. Read the short case summary below.

Case: Hurricane Katrina (2005)

- **Where:** Gulf Coast of the United States, especially New Orleans, Louisiana
- **When:** August 23–31, 2005
- **Category:** 5 (at peak in the Gulf of Mexico)
- **Wind Speeds:** Up to 175 mph
- **Rainfall:** More than 8 inches in some areas
- **Impact:** Storm surge overwhelmed levees in New Orleans, causing massive flooding. Over 1,800 people died, thousands were displaced, and damages exceeded \$125 billion.



Analyzing the Event

Answer the following questions based on the case study:

1. What type of extreme weather event was Hurricane Katrina?
2. Name **two main causes** of the severe flooding in New Orleans.
3. List **three impacts** this event had on people or the environment.
4. What were **two emergency responses** taken after the storm?
5. What **long-term change or improvement** could help reduce damage from a similar event in the future?

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Cause and Effect Table

Fill in the missing side of the table for at least **three examples**.

Cause	Effect
Storm surge pushed into low-lying city areas	
Levees broke in multiple locations	
Communication systems failed during the disaster	
	Thousands of residents were evacuated to shelters
	Wetland habitats were destroyed

Reflection

In **three sentences**, explain what you think communities should focus on first when preparing for extreme weather events like hurricanes.
