**Article of the Week**

**Step 1: Read** the article once the whole way through

**Step 2: Read** the article **carefully** and **make notes in the margin**.

Notes should include:

* Questions you have that show what you are **wondering** about as you read.
* Connections you make while reading (**T to S, T to T, T to W**)
* Underline important facts

**Step 3: Answer** the Food For Thought questions

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Hurricanes**

The Characteristics of a hurricane are powerful winds, driving rain and raging seas. Although a storm must have winds blowing at least 74 miles an hour to be classified as a hurricane, it is not unusual to have winds above 150 miles per hour. The entire storm system can be 500 miles in diameter, with lines of clouds that spiral toward a center called the “eye”. Within the eye itself, which is about 15 miles across, the air is actually calm and cloudless. But this eye is enclosed by a towering wall of thick clouds where the storm’s heaviest rains and highest winds are found.

All hurricanes begin in the warm seas and moist winds of the tropics. They form in either of two narrow bands to the north and south of the equator. For weeks, the blistering sun beats down on the ocean water. Slowly, the air above the sea becomes heated and begins to swirl. More hot, moist air is pulled skyward. Gradually, this circle grows larger and spins faster. As the hot, moist air at the top is cooled, great rain clouds are formed. The storm’s fury builds until it moves over land or a cold area of the ocean where its supply of heat and moisture is finally cut off.

Hurricanes that strike North America usually form over the Atlantic Ocean. West coast storms are less dangerous because they tend to head out over the Pacific Ocean rather than toward land. The greatest damage usually comes from the hurricanes that begin in the western Pacific, because they often hit heavily populated regions.

**Food For Thought Questions**

1. Where are the heaviest rains and highest winds in a tornado found?
2. When do the winds in a hurricane stop building?
3. Which words or phrases in paragraph 3 help to build of sense of how violent tornadoes are?
4. Why does a hurricane cause the most damage in places where there are a lot of people? (Make an inference- the answer is not found in the text)