Investigating Changing Climate Patterns - Activity Sheet Part 2 - Low Air Pressure

## Student Activity

## Continue from the last activity sheet

20. Describe the distribution of cloud in the satellite image.

21. Describe the storm tracks for Hurricanes; Harvey; Irma \& Maria.


22. With three such terrible storms within weeks of each other why might it be fair to describe these storms as a near miss?
23. Use the information in the three tables to rank the three hurricanes using:
a. Wind speed
b. Fatalities
c. Cost
d. Air Pressure

## Hurricane Harvey

| Hurricane Harvey |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Formed <br> Dissipated | August 17, 2017 <br> September 3, 2017 |
| Highest <br> winds | 1-minute sustained - 130 mph (215 <br> km/h) |
| Lowest <br> pressure | 938 mbar |
| Fatalities | 77 confirmed |
| Damage | Approximately \$70 billion USD <br> (lowest) to \$180 billion USD (highest) <br> - almost all in the USA. |


| Hurricane Irma |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Formed <br> Dissipated | August 30, 2017 <br> September 16, 2017 |
| Highest <br> winds | 1 -minute sustained -185 mph $(295 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{h})$ |
| Lowest <br> pressure | 914 mbar |
| Fatalities | 132 confirmed |
| Damage | At least \$63 billion USD. |


| Hurricane Maria |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Formed <br> Dissipated | September 16, 2017 October 3, 2017 |
| Highest <br> winds | 1 -minute sustained - $175 \mathrm{mph}(280 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{h})$ |
| Lowest <br> pressure | 908 mbar |
| Fatalities | 81 confirmed |
| Damage | $>\$ 51.2$ billion USD |

25. Using the before and after photographs describe:
a. The Virgin Islands
b. Puerto Rico at night.

b.

26. Draw a graph to show the wind speeds of different categories of Tropical storms.

| Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Categories |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Category | Wind speeds |
| Five | $\geq 157 \mathrm{mph}, \geq 252 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{h}$ |
| Four | $130-156 \mathrm{mph}, 209-251 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{h}$ |
| Three | $111-129 \mathrm{mph}, 178-208 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{h}$ |
| Two | $96-110 \mathrm{mph}, 154-177 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{h}$ |
| One | $74-95 \mathrm{mph}, 119-153 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{h}$ |
| Tropical Storms |  |
| Tropical <br> storm | $39-73 \mathrm{mph}, 63-118 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{h}$ |
| Tropical <br> depression | $\leq 38 \mathrm{mph}, \leq 62 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{h}$ |

27. What are the three essential factors necessary for Hurricane formation?

## a.

b.
c.
28. Why are the tropical storms in each hemisphere separated by the Equatorial region?

29. Draw your own sketch to show the main features of a hurricane.

30. Explain the following terms:
a. Pressure
b. Force
c. A Newton
d. A Pascal
e. A Bar
f. A Millibar
31. Use this sketch to help you to explain air pressure.

32. Use the graph below to describe what happens to air pressure as a person climbs from sea level to 10,000 metres.
a. At 0 metres
b. At 4,000 metres
c. At 8,000 metres.

Atmospheric Pressure vs. Altitude

33. Why is there always a band of low air pressure close to the Equator?
a. How can we see this on a satellite image?
b. What kind of climate does this cause?
c. What kind of ecosystem?
34. What happens where air in the convection cell descends?
a. To the air pressure?
b. To the climate?
c. To the landscape?

## Conclusions

35. Describe all of the ways that air pressure is important
