Activities
WILD WEATHER CROSSWORD
Grades: 3–5

Overview:
Children learn about environmental hazards by doing a crossword puzzle where the answers are linked to websites. Watch out for tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, lightning, and extreme temperatures as you explore these great Web sites. First, print out the crossword puzzle so you can write down your answers. (Click on the puzzle for a printable version.) Then click on the links below to find the answers to the questions. Be careful it's pretty wild out there!

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ACROSS
4. Coastal floods can be caused by giant tidal waves called ___________________. Find the answer at: http://weathereye.kgan.com/cadet/flood/type.html
5. Ancient Greeks believed that lightning was a punishment from the god ___________________. Find the answer at: http://sln.fi.edu/weather/lightning/history.html
7. Tornadoes are powerful funnels of spiraling winds. In which direction would a tornado in Kansas most likely rotate?

Find the answer at: www.tornadoproject.com/cellar/tttttttt.htm

11. Lightning forms in a thunderstorm cloud where there are areas of positively and negatively charged _________________. When the oppositely charged areas are near each other, an electrical discharge travels between them, causing lightning.

Find the answer at: http://sln.fi.edu/weather/lightning/science.html

12. Hurricanes are formed over warm ________________ oceans when there is the right combination of heat, moisture, and wind conditions.

Find the answer at: http://www.miamisci.org/hurricane/howhurrwork.html

14. The dangerous ________________ flood is the fastest-moving type of flood.

Find the answer at: http://weathereye.kgan.com/cadet/flood/about.html

16. Weather experts give the "wind-chill factor" to describe how cold it feels outside. If the temperature is low, and the wind is strong, the body often cannot keep up with heat loss, and the skin temperature ________________.

Find the answer at: www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dpae/cons/windchill204.html

DOWN

1. Did you know you can tell how far away lightning is by counting the seconds between the "flash" of lightning and the "bang" of thunder? Each five seconds equals one mile. If you count 15 seconds or less between lightning and thunder, you're in a high- ________________ zone.

Find the answer at: www.kidslightning.info/flshbang.htm

2. Which state held the record from 1950-1994 for the highest average number of tornadoes a year?

Find the answer at: www.infoplease.com/spot/tornado1.html

3. Which hurricane hit the coast of South Carolina in 1989?

Find the answer at: www.loep.state.la.us/factsheets/retiringnmesthurrican.htm

6. What will the first hurricane of the year 2006 be named?

Find the answer at: http://www.miamisci.org/hurricane/hurricanenames.html
7. Which state has had the hottest temperature ever recorded?
Find the answer at: http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0001375.html

8. Floods may be dangerous, but they can also make the surrounding soil more fertile. Ancient Egyptian farmers depended on the regular flooding of the ________________ River for a successful harvest.
Find the answer at: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/flood/gifts3.html

9. In 1743, a hurricane caught a stargazing Ben Franklin by surprise. He had planned to study a lunar ________________ that evening.

10. Travel into the middle of a hurricane! The calm area in the center of the storm is called the ________________.
Find the answer at: www.miamisci.org/hurricane/howhurrwork.html

13. Most tornadoes occur in "Tornado ________________," an area in the central United States that stretches from Nebraska to Texas. There warm, moist air from the Gulf of Mexico meets cool, dry air from Canada.
Find the answer at: www.oar.noaa.gov/spotlite/archive/spot_climatology.html

15. Scientists use the Fujita Scale to measure the power of a tornado. A tornado with 200-mile-per-hour winds would be considered ________________.
Find the answer at: www.tornadoproject.com/fscale/fscale.htm

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Subjects:
Hurricanes, Content Area Reading, Reading Comprehension, Research Skills, Rain, Thunder and Lightning, Snow, Ice, Blizzards, Tornadoes, Communication and the Internet, Computers, Teaching with Technology