

How many hurricanes happen?

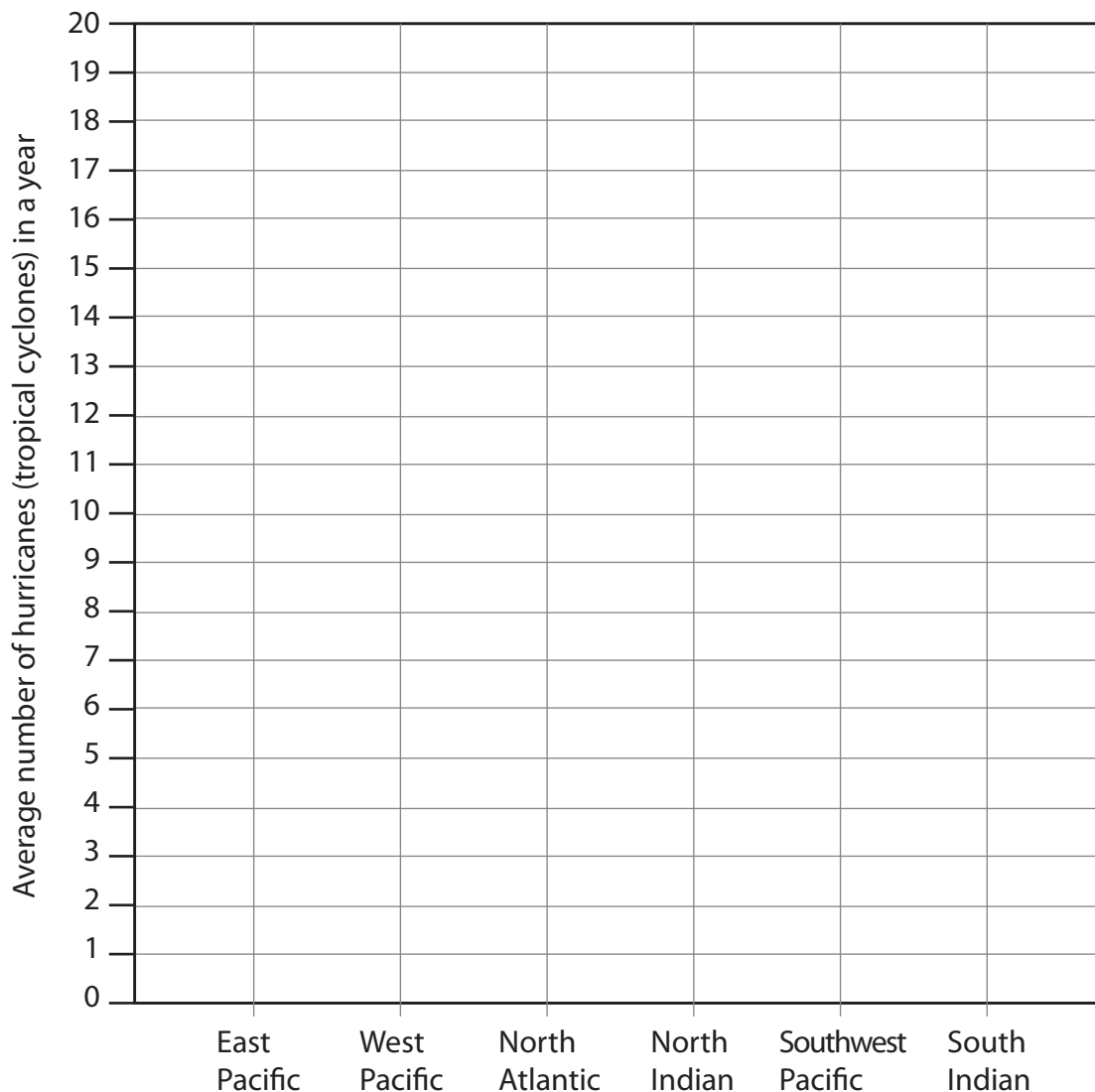
The number of hurricanes (tropical cyclones) that happen varies a bit from year to year. But the average number can tell you how many are likely. Take a look at the data below in Table 1. This shows the time of hurricane season and the average number of hurricanes in each region. What do you think? Do regions get the same number of hurricanes?

Table 1

Hurricane Region	Hurricane Season	Number of hurricanes per year (average)
East Pacific Ocean	May - November	9
West Pacific Ocean	April - January	17
North Atlantic	June - November	6
North Indian Ocean	April - December	2
Southwestern Pacific	October - May	5
South Indian Ocean	October - May	10

Average hurricanes data from NOAA based on data from 1968-1989 and rounded to closest whole number.

Make a bar graph! A bar graph is a great way to show relative differences in number. Each bar is the number of hurricanes for each region. Draw each bar using the same colors that you used for your map of where hurricanes happen.



What do you think?

Does the same number of hurricanes happen in each region? (Look at your bar graph to help you answer this question.)

YES

NO

When do hurricanes happen?

Hurricane season is the time of year when hurricanes will most likely happen. But hurricane season is not at the same time in all places. Use the same colors from the key on your map of hurricane locations to indicate the hurricane season for each region on the timeline below.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
East Pacific Ocean												
West Pacific Ocean												
North Atlantic												
North Indian Ocean												
Southwest Pacific												
South Indian Ocean												

Questions:

1. Hurricanes are common during summer. Summer is June - September in the Northern Hemisphere. Knowing this, can you tell which regions are in the Northern Hemisphere from the timeline above?

2. Summer is December - February in the Southern Hemisphere. Can you tell which regions are in the Southern Hemisphere from the timeline above?