

## My First Hurricane Ever

We often learn about history from the people who lived it. Sometimes these people are interviewed, and sometimes they might write about their experiences in a journal or book. My family, town, county, state, and region recently experienced some history. I would like to write about my encounter with a storm called Hurricane Irene. It all happened in early September of 2011 when I was about to enter the fourth grade at Shaftsbury Elementary School in Shaftsbury, Vermont.

My family made lots of preparations before Hurricane Irene. First, I brought my dog inside so she would not get hurt. Then mom and I shopped for water and food because it may not be safe to go out later. Then my mom did laundry just in case the power went out and the washing machine didn't work. I was glad that we prepared so well because the storm was about to arrive.

When Hurricane Irene finally arrived in Vermont, I felt nervous. First, it was raining cats and dogs! It was also very windy. We watched TV to see what was going on. We saw pictures of a car floating down the road near our town! Then we were watching TV shows to escape the tension. The lights flickered and we were worried we would lose power. We would soon learn just how much damage the storm caused.

The days following the storm revealed just much destruction there was around us. School was closed for days and days after Hurricane Irene. The raging rivers and the flooding and closed roads made it difficult to travel. Stores were closed because of flooding, and the water in Chili's parking lot was up to a car window! Many people were affected by Hurricane Irene.

Many life lessons were learned. We now know that hurricanes don't just happen in faraway places. We also learned that some of the worst damage from a hurricane is not caused by wind, but by water. In addition, we learned how important it was to prepare before the storm and work together after the storm. Hurricane Irene taught us a lot about how powerful nature can be. Hopefully, others can also learn from what I have written.

Kelly T

# Bad Hurricane Irene

We often learn about history from the people who lived it. Sometimes these people are interviewed, and sometimes they might write about their experiences in a journal or book. My family, town, county, state, and region recently experienced some history. I would like to write about my encounter with a storm called Hurricane Irene. It all happened in early September of 2011 when I was about to enter the fourth grade at Shaftsbury, Elementary School in Shaftsbury, Vermont.

Before Hurricane Irene my family and I had preparations for the storm. First, we were at dad's house helping him make paths for water to go down. Then, we watched the news reporter talking about the storm. We went to the store and got a flashlight in case the power went out. Last, we filled the car up with gas. Luckily mom came to pick us up to take us home before the storm arrived. She also prepared at home. I'm glad that we helped dad prepare because Hurricane Irene soon arrived.

When Hurricane Irene finally arrived in Vermont, I felt frightened and worried. We watched videos to keep our minds off the storm. We watched the weather channel to see what was happening everywhere. We were watching our animals go crazy. My kitten scratched me! My dog has a blue ball that he kept barking and chewing his ball at the same time. He does that when he sees things he doesn't like. We would soon learn how much damage was caused all around us.

The days after the storm revealed just how much destruction there was around us. First, we drove around the area. There were police, firemen and people all over the place. There were trees down and roads were closed! There was so much debris everywhere. Windows were knocked out of buildings. There were clothes in trees! The destruction would take a long time to clean up.

Many life lessons were learned. We now know that hurricanes don't just happen in faraway places. We also learned that some of the worst damage from a hurricane is not caused by wind, but by water. In addition, we learned how important it was to prepare before the storm and work together after the storm. Hurricane Irene taught us a lot about how powerful nature can be. Hopefully, others can also learn from what I have written.

By: Mia S