

0. Galveston and the Great Storm of 1900 - Story Preface

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Photograph depicting hurricane damage caused by the "Great Storm of 1900." Created by Keystone View Company, and maintained at the Library of Congress, the image has this title: "Seeking valuables in the wreckage, Galveston, Texas."

*Sunday, September 9th, 1900, revealed
one of the most horrible sights that
ever a civilized people looked upon.*

Isaac Cline
September 23, 1900

It was the peak of hurricane season - September 8, 1900. The waters of the Gulf of Mexico were hot. Very hot. Just the kind of hot a tropical storm needs to grow into a hurricane.

A storm that began in late August near the Cape Verde Islands, off Africa's west coast, had reached Cuba by September 5th. In the days of primitive weather instruments, meteorologists on the island had developed an amazing ability to forecast major storms. They predicted *this* tropical storm would intensify when it left Cuba. Those Cuban forecasters believed something else. They were sure the storm would continue on its westward path, toward Texas.

Those early forecasters were right. Due to the arrogance of some folks in the U.S. Weather Bureau, however, people in the direct path of the "Great Storm of 1900" didn't know their lives and property were in grave danger.

When the storm reached Galveston, an island off the Texas shore, it temporarily buried the town and its people with sea water. It is believed that over 8,000 people died within a few hours.

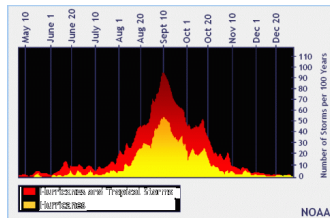
It remains the worst natural disaster in U.S. history.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Galveston-and-the-Great-Storm-of-1900>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Galveston-and-the-Great-Storm-of-1900>

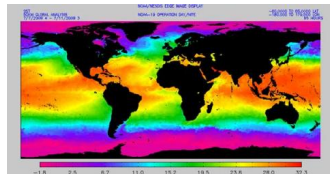


Hurricanes and Tropical Storms - Peak of Season

Image from [NOAA](#); online, courtesy NOAA.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Hurricanes-and-Tropical-Storms-Peak-of-Season>

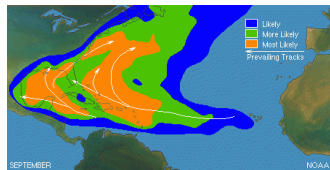


Sea Surface Temperature Graph - Hurricane Formation

Image online, courtesy [NOAA](#).

View this asset at:

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NOAA - Hurricane Prevailing Tracks for Month of September

Image online, courtesy NOAA. For a more detailed explanation of this graphic - and a comparison to other months during hurricane season - see NOAA's "Hurricane Climatology."

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/NOAA-Hurricane-Prevailing-Tracks-for-Month-of-September>



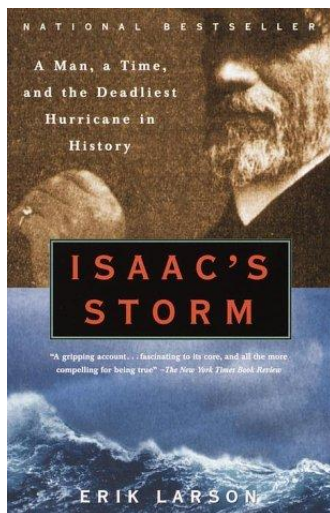
Map Depicting Location of Cape Verde Islands

Map depicting location of the Cape Verde Islands by Waldir, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Isaac's Storm - by Erik Larson

Image of book cover online, courtesy Amazon.

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Galveston and the Great Storm of 1900

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