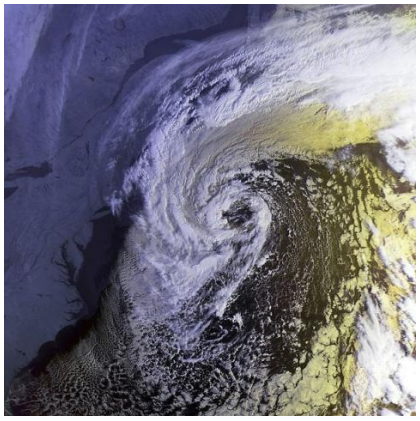
The Perfect Storm at AwesomeStories



The town of Gloucester, in Massachusetts, keeps track of its “men who go down to the sea in ships.” Six men who were killed in 1991's “Perfect Storm” have their names on that list.

On October 23, 1991, Billy Tyne (played by George Clooney in the film “The Perfect Storm”) and his five crewmates set their longlines for what they hoped would be the best swordfish catch of the season. Aboard the *Andrea Gail*, they were fishing in waters off Newfoundland's Grand Banks.

Unknown to Tyne and his crew, one of the rarest meteorological events of the century was developing. Three separate weather systems were on a “perfectly” aligned collision course. A Great Lakes storm system (moving east), a Canadian cold front (moving south) and Hurricane Grace (moving northeast) were all headed for the North Atlantic. They would eventually collide where the *Andrea Gail* was located.

In this story about the storm and the film:

- Learn how hurricanes develop;
- See how ships were warned about bad weather during 1991;
- Meet the real Billy Tyne and his crew;
- Inspect the *Andrea Gail* and the track of the storm which eventually claimed her;
- Examine the satellite images of the developing “Perfect Storm”;
- Plot the last-known location of the *Andrea Gail* on the “perfect storm” graph;
- Compare the size of the boat (72 feet) with the data from a Canadian weather buoy which reported waves of 99.735 feet (30.5 meters);
- Examine the shoals off Sable Island (where some experts believe the *Andrea Gail* was lost); and
- Discover what other famous ship—the *Titanic*—sank just a few hundred miles away.

Learning about “The Perfect Storm” comes alive at AwesomeStories. Depending on a teacher’s preference, students can:

- “See” the story unfolding before their eyes in class (then view it, with their parents, at home);
- “Hear” the story (via a provided dramatized narration);
- "Think about” the story (with essential questions, such as “How much courage does it take to be a hurricane

hunter?"); and

- "Study" the story (with lots of pictures and videos, including a clip of ships battling monster seas).

Using an integrated approach—combining STEM, visual arts, historical materials and language arts—students investigate weather phenomenon, like The Perfect Storm, in personalized-learning fashion with words and concepts suitable for a range of achievement levels. Students can then create their own stories, using the AwesomeStories' archive of primary sources, to produce their own related stories to share with their class, their family and (if accepted for publication) ... the whole online world!

Credits:

The image, at the top of this page, shows "The Perfect Storm" at its peak intensity on 30 October 1991 at 1226 UTC. The image is from NOAA / Satellite and Information Service.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/The-Perfect-Storm-at-AwesomeStories

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/The-Perfect-Storm-at-AwesomeStories

Questions 2 Ponder

How Much Courage Does It Take to be a Hurricane Hunter?

When hurricanes approach, meteorologists at the National Weather Service warn of the storm's likely path. Sometimes they are right; sometimes they are wrong. Storms, after all, aren't completely predictable in terms of their path and intensity.

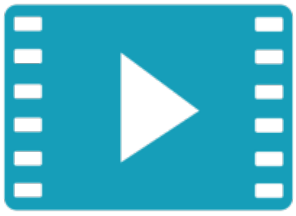
As people who live in the likely path of the storm take precautions, another group of individuals get ready to fly directly into the storm. They are known as "Hurricane Hunters."

In this image, NOAA (the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) gives us an artist's rendering of a NOAA P-3 N42RF Hurricane Hunter. We can see the plane within the eye of a storm.

What kind of courage would it take to do such a dangerous and scary job? Would a career in this field interest you? Why, or why not?

What is the scariest thing that ever happened to you? How do you think that compares to being a Hurricane Hunter?

Media Stream



At Sea During a Monster Storm Near Island of Terror

Clip from *Oceans*, a French documentary. Copyright, Jaques Perrin, all rights reserved. Clip provided here as fair use for educational purposes and to acquaint new viewers with the documentary.

Directed by: Jacques Perrin and Jacques Cluzaud
Produced by: Jacques Perrin, Romain Legrand, Nicolas Mauvernay and Jake Eberts
Narrated by: Jacques Perrin (French) and Pierce Brosnan (English)
Music by: Bruno Coulais
Studios: Participant Media, Pathé, Gatetee Films, GAGA, France 2 Cinema, France 3 Cinema and Canal+
Distributed (in the US) by: Disneynature
Release date(s): October 17, 2009 (Tokyo International Film Festival) and January 27, 2010 (France)
Run time: 104 minutes
Country: France
Languages: French and English
Budget: € 49 million (US $ 66 million)
View this asset at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/At-Sea-During-a-Monster-Storm-Near-Island-of-Terror