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Activities

Katrina's Aftermath

Name: _____ Date: _____

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina slammed the Gulf Coast with intense rains, howling winds, and powerful waves. The hurricane triggered one of the worst natural disasters in our nation's history. In this Planet Diary activity, you'll take a close look at the impact of this fierce storm.

Directions

- Start with this Planet Diary account of Hurricane Katrina. Answer Workspace question 1.
- Take a look at these before and after photos of the Chandeleur Islands off the coast of New Orleans. Read the text, then scroll to the photo pairs for Locations 1–4. Look closely at the differences in each pair. Answer question 2.
- New Orleans was swamped by floods after some levees protecting the city failed. Read this account from USGS scientists. Then answer question 3.
- Scroll to the false-color Landsat satellite photo of New Orleans and read the captions. Answer question 4.
- Here's a satellite view of New Orleans before and after Katrina. Look at the pictures and read the captions. Then answer question 5.
- Check out these 3-D images of Dauphin Island off the coast of Alabama. Look at the map (Figure 1), then the before and after pictures (Figure 2). Read the caption. Answer the last question.

Workspace

1. The hurricane's heaviest rain and strongest winds hit New Orleans on a Monday, but the worst of the disaster happened the next day. Explain why.

2. Describe how the Chandeleur Islands changed as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

3. Why did some of the levees protecting New Orleans fail?

4. Based on the colors on the Landsat photo, how deep were the worst floods in New Orleans?

5. Describe what the satellite pictures show.

6. How did the island change from Katrina?

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