



Hurricane *Melissa* (November 4, 2025)

TEACHING GUIDE

i What? A very powerful hurricane named *Melissa*, which hit Jamaica hard with violent winds, heavy rains, and flooding. 🌪️

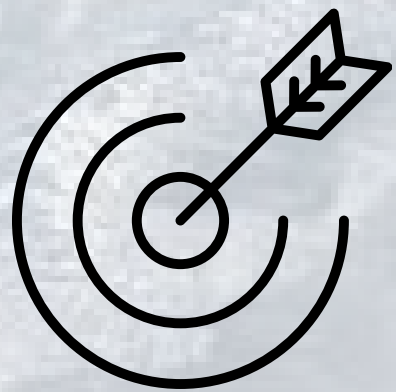
👤 Who? Jamaican residents—children, families, entire communities—who were affected by the hurricane's damage.

🌍 Where? On the island of Jamaica, in the Caribbean.

🕒 When? Late October 2025—the hurricane hit Jamaica around October 28.

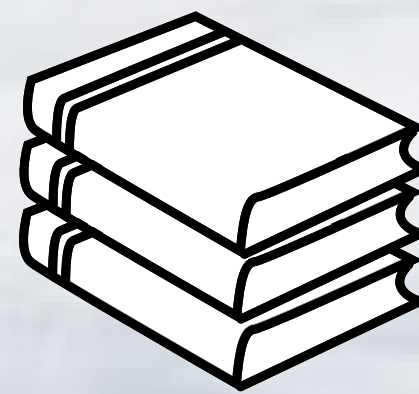
? Why? Because this hurricane caused widespread destruction (buildings, roads, homes) and shows how vulnerable Caribbean island countries are to climate events. 🌧️

🎯 **For this activity, your goal will be to learn a little more about hurricanes from a real-life example, that of *Melissa*.**



OBJECTIVES

- Understand how hurricanes form and identify the conditions necessary for their development.
- Discover the main characteristics of a real hurricane using the example of *Melissa*.
- Read and extract essential information from articles, videos, and weather maps.
- Better locate Jamaica in the world and understand its vulnerability to climate phenomena.
- Develop the ability to answer informative questions and summarize data in a fact sheet.



SUBJECTS

- **English.** Reading informative texts, answering short written questions.
- **Social studies and geography.** Locating Jamaica, exploring its geographical location, and understanding natural phenomena.
- **Science and technology.** Understanding how hurricanes form (water temperature, wind systems, rotation).
- **Civics.** Raising awareness of climate risks and the human impact of natural disasters.



COMPETENCIES

- Working methods. Following a three-step process, searching for information independently (video/Vikidia/Wikipedia)
- Reasoning and analyzing. Identifying the meteorological characteristics of a hurricane and interpreting data.
- Working methods. Following a three-step process, searching for information independently (video/Vikidia/Wikipedia).
- Communication. Clearly express a short and relevant written response.
- Civic awareness. Understand major natural hazards and the impact of hurricanes on island populations.



DURATION

- About 60 minutes



GETTING STARTED

- Show a photo of a hurricane or a short video showing *Melissa* near Jamaica.
- Ask:
 - “Why do you think some countries are more affected by hurricanes than others?”
 - “Have you ever heard the terms hurricane, cyclone, or typhoon? Do you know the difference?”
- Introduce the activity:
 - “Today, we're going to learn how hurricanes form, explore *Melissa*—a real hurricane—and discover a country that was severely affected: Jamaica.”



Hurricane *Melissa* (November 4, 2025) TEACHING GUIDE



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STEP 1 — How Does a Hurricane Form? Read articles and watch a short video to understand the conditions necessary for a hurricane to form.

Q1 — Very warm water (at least 80–84°F), humid air, and an area where winds are rotating.

Q2 — In the North Atlantic, the Caribbean, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Western Pacific.

Q3 — Atlantic and Caribbean: hurricanes. Western Pacific: typhoons.

Q4 — The names come from an official list prepared each year by the World Meteorological Organization.

STEP 2 — A Weather Monster Called *Melissa*. Search for information in a short news report and on Wikipedia to fill out the fact sheet on Hurricane *Melissa*.

	Your answer
Date of formation	October 21, 2025
Countries hit	Jamaica, Cuba, Haiti
Maximum wind speed	295 km/h
Fatalities	96
Cost of damage	6 billion USD
Category on Saffir-Simpson scale	5

SAFFIR-SIMPSON SCALE	
	
1	WINDS OF 74-95 MPH Minimal damage
2	WINDS OF 96-110 MPH Moderate damage
3	WINDS OF 111-129 MPH Major damage
4	WINDS OF 130-156 MPH Severe damage
5	WINDS OF 157 MPH OR HIGHER Catastrophic damage

STEP 3 — Jamaica, Hard Hit. Search Vikidia or Wikipedia to better locate Jamaica in the world and understand its vulnerability to hurricanes.

Q5 — The Caribbean Sea

Q6 — Kingston

Q7 — Approximately 3 million people

Q8 — Cuba and Haiti



WRAPPING UP

- Briefly review the activity:
 - “What did you learn about hurricanes and *Melissa*?”
- Invite students to share one thing that stood out to them, such as:
 - a surprising fact about how hurricanes form;
 - an important fact about *Melissa*;
 - something they learned about Jamaica.



FURTHER EXPLORATION

- “*All About Hurricanes. Discovering Earth’s Wildest Storms*”. Scholastic Editions
-  The Earth Nullschool website allows you to observe winds and weather phenomena around the planet in real time: <https://earth.nullschool.net>

