

PHOTO COLLECTIONS OF HURRICANES CAMILLE AND
KATRINA

PI/NAH43.6 and PI/2005/0024

<https://da.mdah.ms.gov/series/camille>

<https://da.mdah.ms.gov/series/katrina>

Hurricanes are one of the largest types of a storm, often measuring up to 350 miles wide. They are the most powerful of storms and often cause severe damage to homes, land, and people. The damage most commonly caused by hurricanes is associated with storm surge flooding, strong winds, and tornadoes. The Atlantic hurricane season begins June 1 and continues through November 30, with the number of storms changing from year to year.

Not all storms are created equal however; some do not even get to be hurricanes. Hurricanes form when warm moist air over water begins to rise. The rising air is then replaced by cooler air. This continues to grow into large clouds and thunderstorms. These storms continue to build and begin to rotate. Storms that have a contained wind speed of less than 39 miles per hour are classified as tropical depressions. Next at 39 to 74 miles per hour are tropical storms. Storms with winds stronger than 74 miles per hour are called hurricanes and receive a name from the World Meteorological Society.

Hurricane Camille made landfall around midnight on August 17, 1969, on the Gulf Coast east of Bay St. Louis, as a Category 5 hurricane. The estimated wind speed was near 200 miles per hour, and the tides were estimated to be between 15 and 32 feet. As the storm moved northeast, it dumped close to 30 inches of rain, causing flash floods and landslides. Overall, the storm system caused an estimated 259 deaths and \$1.421 billion in damage. Camille was the largest single act of destruction in United States history for 23 years, until Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

Hurricane Katrina made landfall at 6:09 a.m. on August 29, 2005, on the Mississippi-Louisiana state line as a strong Category 3 hurricane. The estimated sustained wind speed was 125 miles per hour, and a storm surge between 20 and 30 feet flooded the areas affected. Bay St. Louis, Long Beach, Pass Christian, and Waveland endured most of the force of the storm, while the entire Gulf Coast was affected greatly. Hurricane Katrina caused the death of an estimated 1,800 people, damaged around 275,000 homes, and cost victims over \$100 billion.

Note: This activity can be done as a full class discussion or as individual student work. A fillable PDF student version is provided at <https://www.mdah.ms.gov/learning-lagniappes>.

Subjects that can be addressed within this digital archive:

- Hurricane Camille 1969
- Hurricane Katrina 2005
- Emergency preparedness and recovery
- Roles of government

Directions: Use items from the MDAH Digital Archives entitled Hurricane Camille Photograph Collection and Hurricane Katrina Photographs found at <https://da.mdah.ms.gov/series/camille> and <https://da.mdah.ms.gov/series/katrina> to lead your class in analyzing and interpreting the following items.

Note: Navigate to items by going to <https://da.mdah.ms.gov/series/camille> or <https://da.mdah.ms.gov/series/katrina>, clicking on the first picture, and then entering the desired item number in the box below the image.

Use the Camille series of photos for the first 2 questions.

1. **Navigate to item number 11.** This photo shows damage to buildings along Highway 90 in Biloxi, after Hurricane Camille made landfall in August of 1969. What stands out to you the most in the photograph?

2. **Navigate to item number 23.** The selected photo is from Harrison County. Here, a large boat has come to rest next to a home during Hurricane Camille. What are some of the hazards this family may have faced if they chose to ride out the hurricane in their home?

Use the Katrina series of photos for the remaining questions.

3. **Navigate to item number 32.** The selected image of a home site on the beach was taken twenty-two days after Hurricane Katrina made landfall.
 - A. What are some assumptions you could make about this specific hurricane as well as hurricanes in general, based on this image?

 - B. What are some questions this photograph causes you to have about Hurricane Katrina and hurricanes in general?

4. **Navigate to item number 53.** This photograph is the Hancock County Courthouse in Bay St. Louis. The photograph was taken 22 days after Hurricane Katrina made landfall.

- A. What are some things that stand out to you in this photograph?

- B. What would the main function of this building be after a disaster like Hurricane Katrina?

- C. What are some of the responsibilities of local governments immediately following a disaster such as Hurricane Katrina?