

# your<sup>flame</sup>job

## MINI LESSON

### EYE OF THE STORM

Students will read about pilot Kevin Doremus, who studies hurricanes for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). He and his team gather information that saves lives during hurricanes.



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**EYE OF THE STORM**  
Kevin Doremus is a pilot for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. His job is hunting hurricanes.

When a hurricane is on the horizon, it's a pilot's job to fly into the storm and gather data. Kevin Doremus is a pilot for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). His job is hunting hurricanes. He flies a plane called the WP-3D Orion, which is a modified C-47. It has a special instrument called a dropsonde that can be dropped into the storm. The dropsonde sends data back to the plane, including wind speed, pressure, and temperature. Kevin Doremus is a pilot for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). His job is hunting hurricanes. He flies a plane called the WP-3D Orion, which is a modified C-47. It has a special instrument called a dropsonde that can be dropped into the storm. The dropsonde sends data back to the plane, including wind speed, pressure, and temperature.

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- FIND YOUR FUTURE -

Did you like learning about what it takes to be a hurricane hunter? Visit [kidsjobs.com](https://www.kidsjobs.com) to discover other careers that involve the environment, such as...

Olive Oil Farmer  
Urban Composter  
Wildlife biologist

### Common Core State Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.RI.1  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.RI.3  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.RI.6  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.1  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.6  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.7

### Materials

Class set of “Eye of the Storm”; access to Kahoot! quiz

### INTRODUCTION

Ask students if they can remember the name of a hurricane or other tropical storm. Ask them what details they remember. Did they name recent storms? Or storms known for their significant impact? Do they know what causes hurricanes to form? Test their knowledge of hurricanes with the Kahoot! quiz at [ti.me/hurricanehunter](https://www.kahoot.it/ti.me/hurricanehunter) before reading the article.



### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is Kevin Doremus’s responsibility as a pilot for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)?
- What skills and traits are necessary to be a NOAA pilot?
- How does someone prepare for a career as a hurricane hunting pilot?
- What parts of Doremus’s job interest you? Why?

### CLOSING

Explain that NOAA has spent many years tracking hurricanes and recording their data. Pull up NOAA’s “Hurricanes in History” page at [ti.me/NOAAhistory](https://www.noaa.gov/hurricanes-in-history). Choose one storm from the list and read through its description. What kind of information is included? How does this align with Doremus’s job? Then click the link to the hurricane’s interactive map. Have students analyze the information included on the map. Then you can invite students to do further research on a hurricane of their choice. They can create their own map using the directions on the “Google Earth: How-To” sheet at [ti.me/GoogleHowTo](https://www.google.com/earth/how-to).



# EYE OF THE STORM

**Kevin Doremus is a pilot for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. His job is hunting hurricanes.**

When a hurricane threatens to make landfall in the United States, crews of hurricane hunters from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) fly into the storm. They do this to learn more about it.

Lieutenant Commander Kevin Doremus is a pilot with the NOAA. His job is to guide a Lockheed WP-3D Orion through the **eyewall** of a hurricane. Doremus and his copilot work with an onboard meteorologist known as the flight director to maneuver the aircraft safely.

Scientists on board measure the air pressure, temperature, and humidity at the storm's center. They measure the wind's direction and speed. Forecasters at the National Hurricane Center use this information. They predict the path a hurricane will take and how much **storm surge** it will produce. These determine whether evacuations are necessary. The work of hurricane hunters saves lives.

## FIVE FAST FACTS

Want to hunt hurricanes? Here, Doremus helps describe some key aspects of the job.

**Hurricane hunters prioritize safety.** Flying into a hurricane seems risky. But NOAA pilots undergo extensive training. Much of it is spent learning how to react if something goes wrong. "We will only fly a mission if we can mitigate risks to a safe level," Doremus says.

**Hurricane hunters work unusual hours.** Hurricane hunters monitor storms round the clock for days. If Doremus is assigned to a night mission, he gets up at 2 a.m. and is in the air by 4 a.m. "Getting up that early can be difficult," he says. "But we're here to [offer] support 24 hours a day, and we're ready to do it."

**Education in science is key.** Doremus earned a bachelor's degree in aviation management from the Florida Institute of Technology. He earned a graduate certificate in coastal studies from Nova Southeastern University, in Florida.

**Strong leadership skills are a must.** "You are put in situations where we need people to make split-second decisions," Doremus says.

**NOAA pilots stay busy in the off-season.** The Atlantic hurricane season is June 1 to November 30. The rest of the year, Doremus flies smaller planes called Twin Otters to support scientific research around the globe.

—By Nathalie Alonso

### Power Words

**eyewall** *noun*: the area immediately outside the center of a hurricane

**storm surge** *noun*: the abnormal rise in sea level caused by a storm

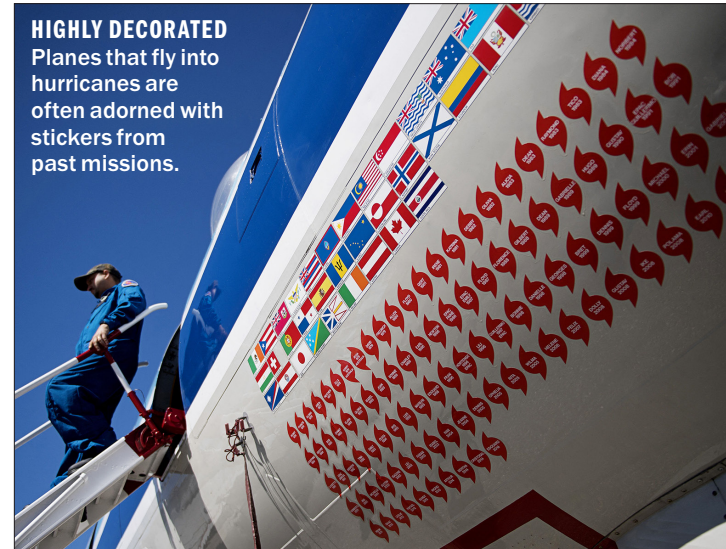
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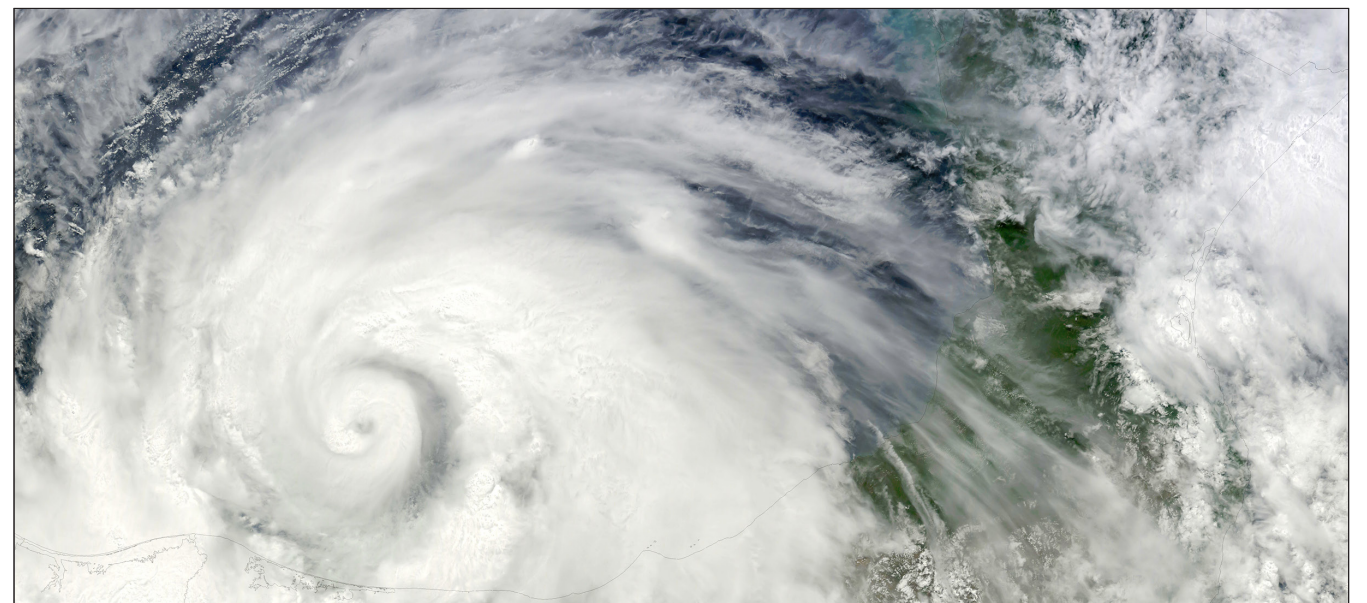
OLIVE OIL FARMER  
URBAN COMPOSTER  
WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST



**BEFORE THE FLIGHT**  
Doremus prepares to fly into Hurricane Ida in August 2021.



**HIGHLY DECORATED**  
Planes that fly into hurricanes are often adorned with stickers from past missions.



**POWERFUL STORM** Storms such as 2016's Hurricane Alex are among the planet's most destructive forces.



**READY FOR RAIN**  
The plane Doremus flies into hurricanes is designed to withstand fierce winds and rain.



# GOOGLE EARTH: HOW-TO

Use the how-to sheet below to create a storm-tracking presentation with Google Earth.

## 1. Getting started

Log in to your Google account, then go to [earth.google.com](https://earth.google.com). Create a new project using the steps below.



- On the left-hand side of the screen, click the Projects icon and create a new project.
- Title your project and add a description.

Project Title
  
Hurricane \_\_\_\_\_ by [name]

Add description
  
This project follows Hurricane [insert name of hurricane] from [insert start date] to [insert end date].

## 2. Adding place marks

Once you create your project, you should add all of your locations before filling in the details. You can search the locations from the “Storm Search” worksheet. Each “place” title should be changed to the date of the event.



## 3. Adding details

Once you’ve added your place marks, add details for each event using the worksheet. After you add text details, you can add images that you found during your research.



## 4. Connecting place marks

Once you’ve finished adding information, connect your place marks in chronological order by clicking them one by one. Then press “enter” and save the line as “Hurricane \_\_\_\_\_’s Path.”

