

Expository Writing Frame

(Title) Wilma and the Water Cycle
by

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(Topic Sentence) Hurricane Wilma developed in the warm waters of the Gulf

(Introduce Subject) of Mexico before moving east across Florida and heading out to the Atlantic Ocean. The life and death of this hurricane can be explained through the four parts of the water cycle: evaporation, condensation, precipitation, and collection.

(1st Step) First, Wilma struck the Yucatan Peninsula and traveled into the Gulf of Mexico. Slowly the storm moved east toward Florida as the winds continued to grow stronger. The rain field also increased causing the hurricane to get larger. In October the conditions in the Gulf of Mexico are still excellent for development of strong hurricanes. Water temperatures are over 80 degrees and the humidity is high. The hot tropical sun causes the warm Gulf waters to evaporate. Then this water vapor adds to the force of the hurricane.

(2nd Step) Next, the water vapor from the Gulf rises inside the hurricane, gets colder, and forms clouds. This is called condensation. The higher you go above the earth's surface the

colder the air temperature gets. The troposphere starts at the Earth's surface and extends 5 to 9 miles high. As you move up in this layer, the temperature can drop to -52 degrees Celsius.

(3rd Step)

Finally, the storm hit Naples on the west coast of Florida.

(Show It)

(Prove It)

As Wilma moved onshore the heavy precipitation began. The precipitation came in the form of blinding rain. Low lying areas in Naples quickly flooded as the ground became saturated. Some people worried that as the storm moved northeast over Florida, Lake Okeechobee would overflow its banks. Fortunately, this did not happen. A cold front moving down from the north blocked the hurricane from getting near the lake. However, Wilma did bring rain and high winds to much of Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and Martin counties.

(Sum It Up)

(Closing Idea)

In conclusion, Hurricane Wilma began by the evaporation of waters in the Gulf of Mexico and spread precipitation all across south Florida. The storm finally blew itself out over the cold waters of the north Atlantic. The ocean collected Wilma's last drops of water and the cycle began again.