

Severe Weather on the Web: Computer Lab for WEST Severe Weather Module

Summary:

Students will explore three websites that present hurricane and tornado data. They will be able to view radar and satellite images as well as examine current storm watches and warnings.

Materials

Computers with internet access

I. NOAA National Hurricane Center

Website: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

--This is the government's forecasting website for hurricanes. It provides real-time hurricane observation and forecasting information and issues tropical storm/hurricane watches and warning. You can also explore archived storms in the North Atlantic and East Pacific oceans.

Activities:

Choose any storm of interest, and explore its graphics archive

Instructions:

1. Click on the link: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>
2. Scroll down and find "2008 Season Summaries and Reports".
3. Click a month for either Atlantic or East Pacific.
4. Scroll down and find a blue storm name, click it.
5. Click "Graphics Archive", explore 3 or 5-day forecasts of the storm.

II. TRMM Tropical Cyclone page

Website: http://www.eorc.jaxa.jp/TRMM/typhoon/index_e.htm

--This is a Japanese TRMM tropical cyclone database webpage. It provides TRMM satellite observations of global tropical cyclones sorted by basins, years, and months.

Activities:

Choose Hurricane Jeanne 2004, and explore its rainfall images.

Instructions:

1. Click on the link: http://www.eorc.jaxa.jp/TRMM/typhoon/index_e.htm
2. Choose basin as "North Atlantic", year as "2004" and month as "Jul"
3. Choose "Jeanne".

III. National Weather Service-- National Weather Hazards

Website: <http://www.weather.gov/view/largemap.php>

--This is the government's forecasting network. This specific page provides active watch, warnings, advisories and short term forecasts in the lower 48 USstates.

Definitions

Forecast—The prediction of what the weather will be in the future

Radar—The instrument used to detect precipitation. Radars are located on towers all over the country.

Satellite—These instruments are used to monitor clouds. Satellites orbit the earth.

Instructions

1. Click on any state of interest with tornado or other severe weather
2. Click on radar or satellite to look images.