

# Hurricanes



# How do hurricanes form?

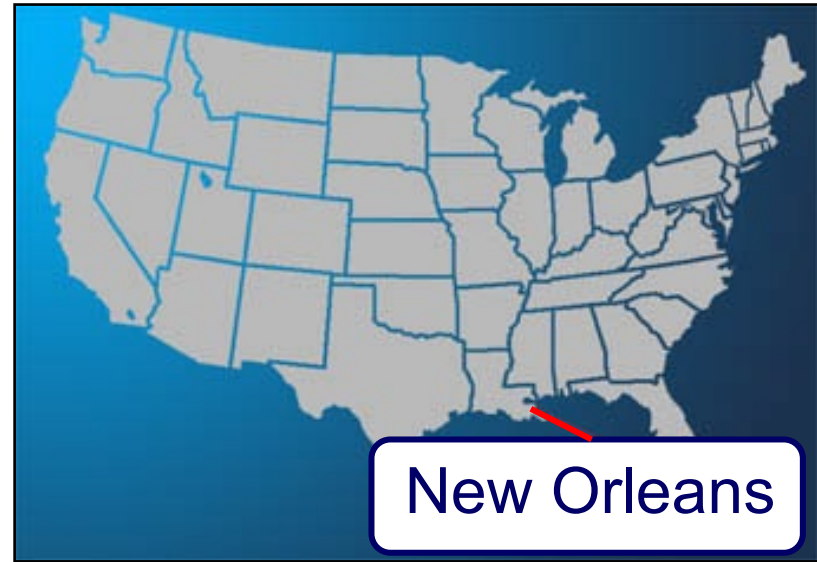


# Hurricane formation



**Hurricane Katrina** was the most powerful hurricane to hit the U.S. in recorded history.

It hit New Orleans on the morning of August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2005, bringing with it terrible destruction.



Winds of over 250 kilometers per hour were recorded as Katrina hit the coast, causing a **storm surge** 8.5 meters high.



At first New Orleans seemed to have weathered the worst of the hurricane, but later storm surges breached the city's protective **levees**.

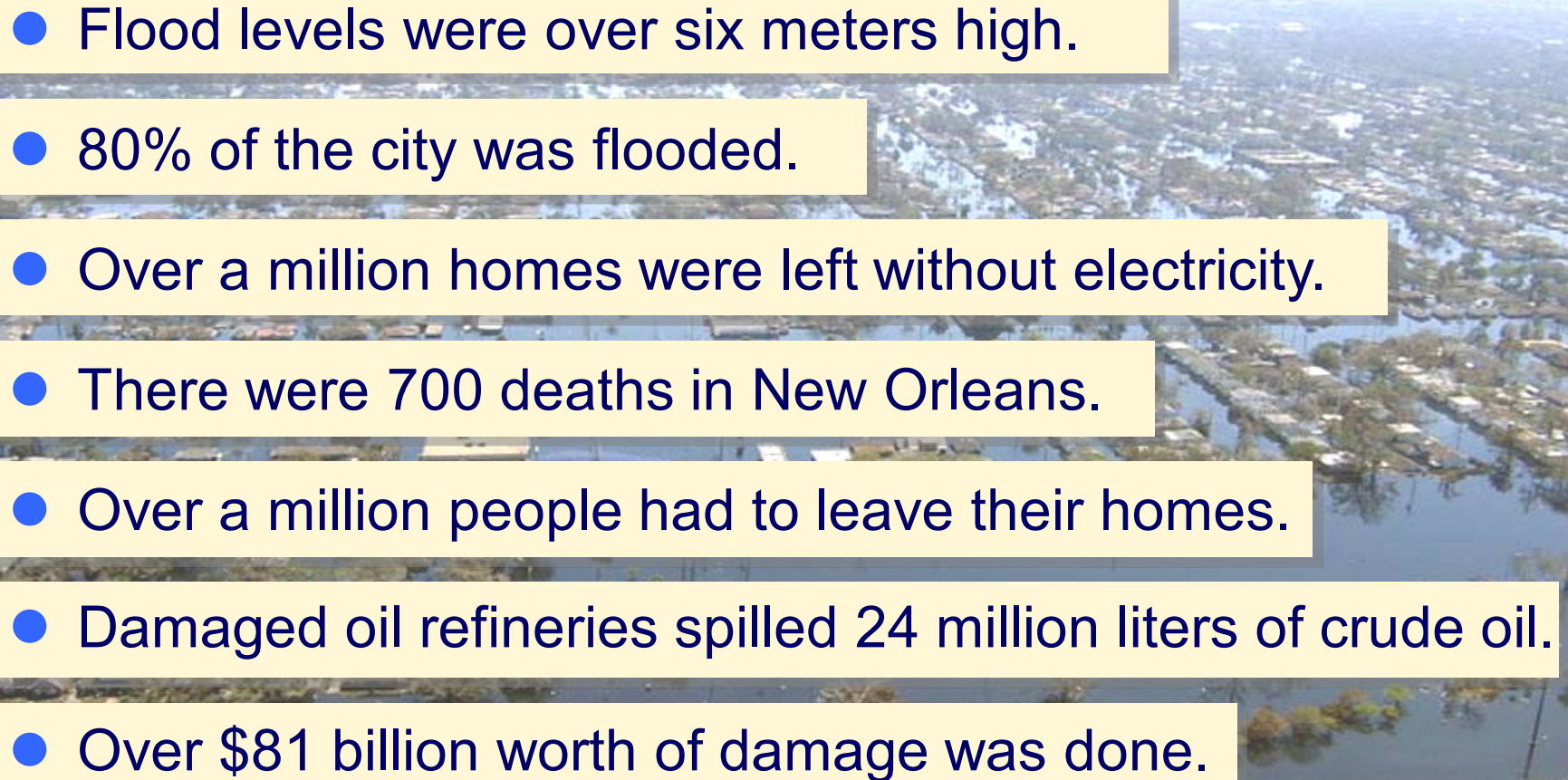


People that had not left their properties were stranded and had to wait to be rescued or wade through polluted floodwater.

It was a hugely devastating natural disaster.



## How badly did Hurricane Katrina affect New Orleans?

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- An aerial photograph showing a vast area of New Orleans, Louisiana, completely submerged in floodwater. The water is a deep blue-grey color, and the outlines of buildings and trees are visible through the water. The sky is overcast and grey.
- Flood levels were over six meters high.
  - 80% of the city was flooded.
  - Over a million homes were left without electricity.
  - There were 700 deaths in New Orleans.
  - Over a million people had to leave their homes.
  - Damaged oil refineries spilled 24 million liters of crude oil.
  - Over \$81 billion worth of damage was done.



# You are the mayor

