DISASTER ZONE

HURRICANES



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CHAPTER 1

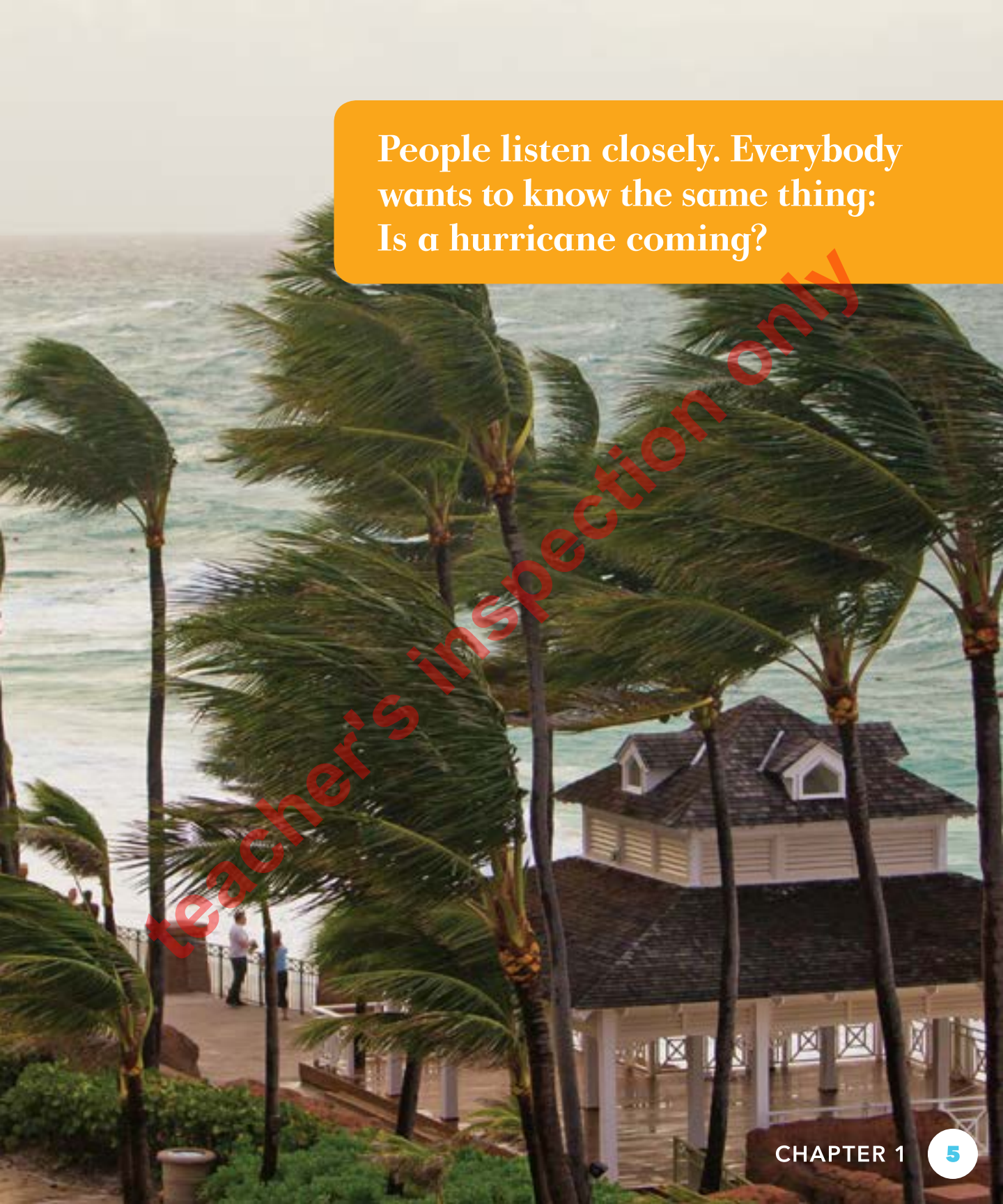
WHAT IS A HURRICANE?

Imagine you're on vacation in Florida. The **meteorologist** on TV is tracking a thunderstorm over the ocean.



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People listen closely. Everybody wants to know the same thing: Is a hurricane coming?



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Hurricanes are powerful spinning storms. When they move over land they can be deadly. Winds and **storm surges** cause major damage.

DID YOU KNOW?

A storm surge is a huge rise in the water level along the coast. It can be as high as 20 feet (6 meters)!



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The next day, you turn on the news again. The storm is growing stronger.

Storm trackers have flown into the hurricane to gather information.

Satellite images show a massive donut-shaped storm forming.

A hurricane is coming! It is time to **evacuate**!

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ACTIVITIES & TOOLS

TRY THIS!

HURRICANE IN A BOTTLE



What You Need:

- two large plastic soda bottles
- 2 ounces (57 grams) vegetable oil
- water
- drill
- duct tape

1. Fill one plastic soda bottle with water.
2. Add the vegetable oil to the bottle; then put the lid on.
3. Hold the cap of the second bottle up against the cap of the first bottle so that the smooth surfaces are touching.
4. Ask an adult to drill a hole through the middle of both caps.
5. Attach the second cap to the empty soda bottle.
6. Tape the two bottles together with duct tape.
7. Turn the soda bottles upside down. Make sure the bottle with the water and oil is on top.
8. Move the bottles in a circular motion to make a swirl.
9. The oil swirl moves to the center of the bottle. The oil swirl is the hurricane.

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GLOSSARY

air pressure: The weight of air on a surface.

Bangladesh: A country in South Asia.

evacuate: To leave a certain place when it is dangerous.

eye: The calm inside of a hurricane.

eyewall: The area around a hurricane's eye; rain is heavy and winds are strongest here.

destructive: Causing something to be destroyed.

hurricane season: In the United States, most hurricanes occur between May and November.

meteorologist: A scientist who studies and predicts weather.

satellite: A spacecraft that goes around the Earth and sends back information.

storm surge: A massive rush of water that occurs when a hurricane moves inland.

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