

Example Text: Review of Media Text

Click the box to watch the movie before you read the review.

Natural Disasters – Wild Weather
Blake Education
Classroom Video
2009
6 minutes

Have you ever wondered what causes cyclones or hurricanes? Amazingly, it is just like having a warm bath!

Such severe weather patterns are caused by warm sea water (over 26.5 degrees C). These temperatures make water vapour rise into the atmosphere, which is known as a Low Pressure System. The air circles around this sort of system. The faster the water vapour rises, the faster the winds become until it develops into a cyclone. The strangest thing about cyclones and hurricanes (which are the same weather event) is that in the centre, or eye of the storm, it is quite calm, yet the winds on the outside can reach up to 300km/h. These are just some of the amazing facts revealed in this educational video, which not only looks at cyclones and tornadoes, but also at floods.

In the beginning, the video features dramatic visual images and matching dark music, which suits the topic really well. But later on it is upsetting to see graphic images of the damage and human suffering caused by these types of wild weather. While the producer makes sure that although the video deals with the hard facts, it does not dwell on them and effectively moves from one part of the topic to another.

The most interesting part of the video is the procedure giving instructions on how to make your own tornado. I like the way the camera zooms in to show a close up of the tricky bits that need special detail. It means that the audience can clearly see what should be done. The video is also very effective in the way that it explains technical language and concepts by giving easy to understand, real life examples, along with simple illustrations and charts.

If you are looking at a scientific investigation about weather issues, watching this short video is an excellent place to start. It is aimed at upper primary students, although some younger students would also get a lot out of it. It is definitely worth a 9/10 for both content and presentation.

