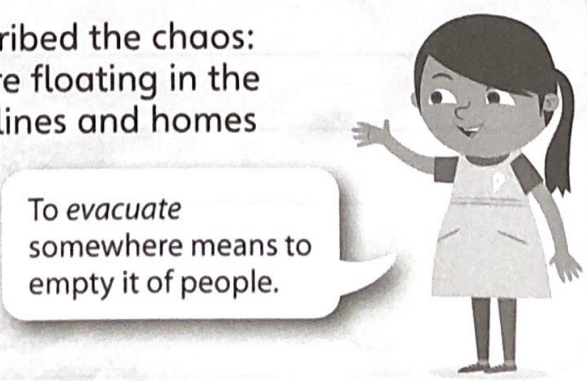
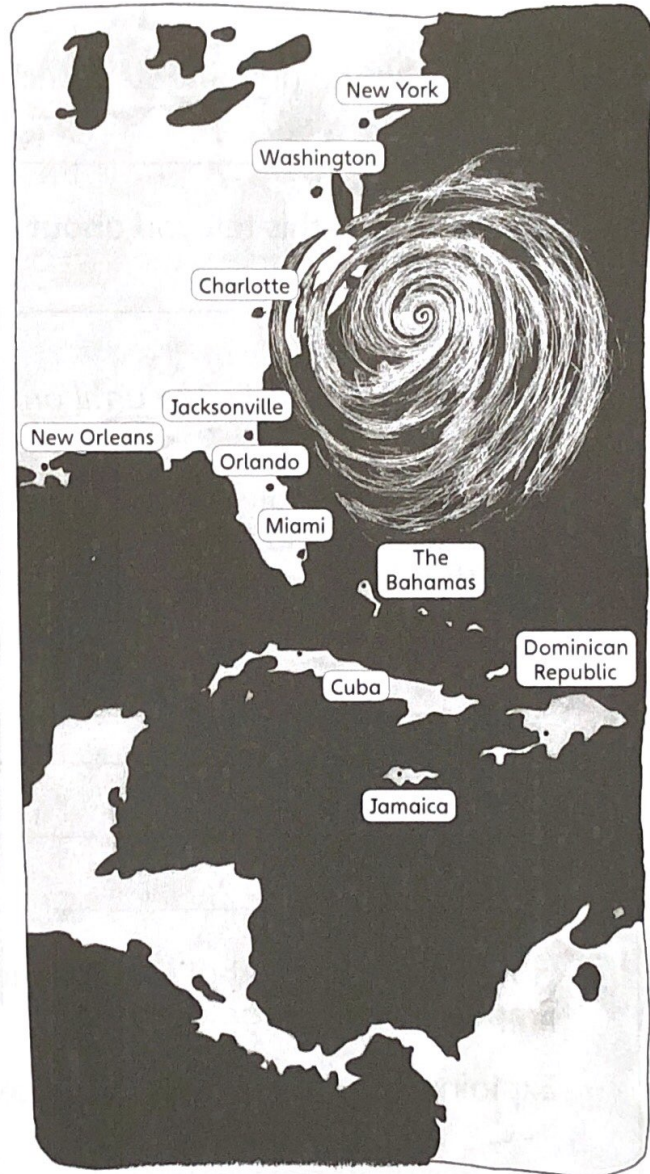


**Horrendous hurricanes**

On 29 October 2012, Hurricane Sandy hit New York in America. It started in the Caribbean Sea and then hit Jamaica, Cuba and the Bahamas, before picking up speed near the coast of America.

Winds reached a speed of over 80 miles per hour. This made tall skyscrapers sway and many trees and power lines were knocked down. Huge waves flooded the streets and water poured into homes, tunnels and underground railway stations. Thousands of homes and many hospitals were closed and evacuated. More than 76 evacuation shelters were opened around the city. About eight and a half million homes lost electricity and thousands of homes and vehicles were destroyed. Around 150 people died.

James Scott from Long Island described the chaos: "I've never seen it this bad. Cars are floating in the roads, trees have fallen on power lines and homes have been destroyed."



Another person said, “everything is ruined”, while one person sat and watched a tree knock down his house like a stack of cards. Schools, railway stations and even the airports in New York had to be closed, and more than 15,000 flights were cancelled.

Hurricane Sandy caused enormous damage, and the total repair cost will be billions of dollars. The Governor said: “The devastation is some of the worst we’ve ever seen.” No wonder it has been nicknamed “Superstorm Sandy”.

*Devastation* is when something is ruined or destroyed.



### Did you know?

Names have been given to storms for the last 100 years because they make it easier for people to talk about them. A list of male and female names is used for each letter of the alphabet (so *Alex*, *Bonnie*, *Colin*, *Danielle* and so on). The names given to storms are re-used unless the storm is particularly deadly – the name *Sandy* has been removed from the list and won't be re-used.