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Brain Builder

What do you already know about hurricanes?
What would you like to know?



I Survived a Superstorm

Elizabeth in Breezy Point, a neighborhood in New York City.

Hurricanes are among the most powerful storms on Earth. One hit Elizabeth Nies's hometown last year.

WATCH A VIDEO about hurricanes
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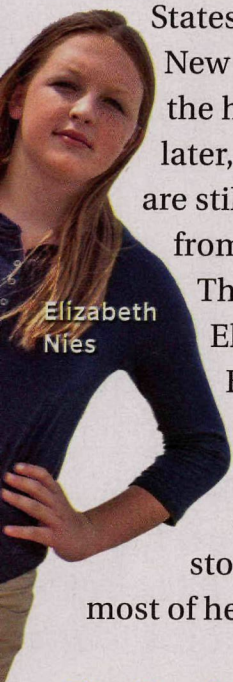


Breezy Point
after the storm



I Survived a Superstorm

On October 29, 2012, a hurricane known as Superstorm Sandy pounded the East Coast of the United States. New York and New Jersey were hit the hardest. A year later, some areas are still recovering from the storm.



Elizabeth
Nies

Thirteen-year-old Elizabeth Nies of Breezy Point in New York City remembers it all too well. The storm destroyed most of her neighborhood.

The Hurricane Hits

News reports that day had warned that a hurricane was heading toward Breezy

Point. But it wasn't until Elizabeth stepped out onto the porch that she and her family knew they were in trouble. A huge wave was coming at them from a nearby bay. The hurricane's powerful winds had caused the bay to overflow.

Water poured into the basement of Elizabeth's house. It was too late to **evacuate**, so her family headed upstairs.

"I was really scared that somebody was going to get hurt," says Elizabeth.

From a window, she saw furniture floating through the streets. She watched neighbors escape their homes in boats.

But water wasn't the only worry. That night, a fire broke out in a house down the street. Wind spread the flames to other homes.

Firefighters rushed to help.

"There were firemen up to their chests with water," Elizabeth remembers.

After the Storm

By morning, the storm had passed. Elizabeth's house was still standing. But many of her neighbors weren't so lucky. More than 100 homes had burned to the ground. Hundreds more had been flooded.

"We didn't have any electricity or places to go get food," says Elizabeth.

For two months, she and her family stayed at her grandfather's house.

A year later, the people of Breezy Point are still rebuilding their homes. That has made the **community** much closer. "We're all thankful for each other," Elizabeth says.

Words to Know

evacuate: leave a place of danger

community: a group of people living in the same place

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