

Name _____

Unraveling the Mysteries of El Niño: A Global Weather Game Changer

Short Answer Key

1. El Niño begins with the warming of sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, disrupting the normal circulation of the atmosphere and ocean in the tropical Pacific. It is one phase of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) pattern.
2. El Niño can cause droughts in wet areas and floods in arid regions by altering jet streams and precipitation patterns.
3. Jet streams are fast-moving air currents high in the atmosphere that influence weather patterns. During El Niño, jet streams can be redirected, leading to changes in precipitation and temperature patterns.
4. El Niño suppresses hurricane activity in the Atlantic Ocean by creating strong wind patterns that hinder hurricane formation and growth.
5. Coral bleaching during El Niño events occurs when elevated sea temperatures stress corals, causing them to expel symbiotic algae living within their tissues, resulting in the loss of color and vitality in coral reefs.

