

Storms, Cyclones, Hurricanes, Typhoons and Tornadoes

Discussion Questions:

- 1) How do destructive weather patterns form?
- 2) Where and when do hurricanes, typhoons and tropical cyclones occur?
- 3) What is a tornado?

A storm front moving over the sea toward the land.



Strong winds associated with many storms can cause damage to property.

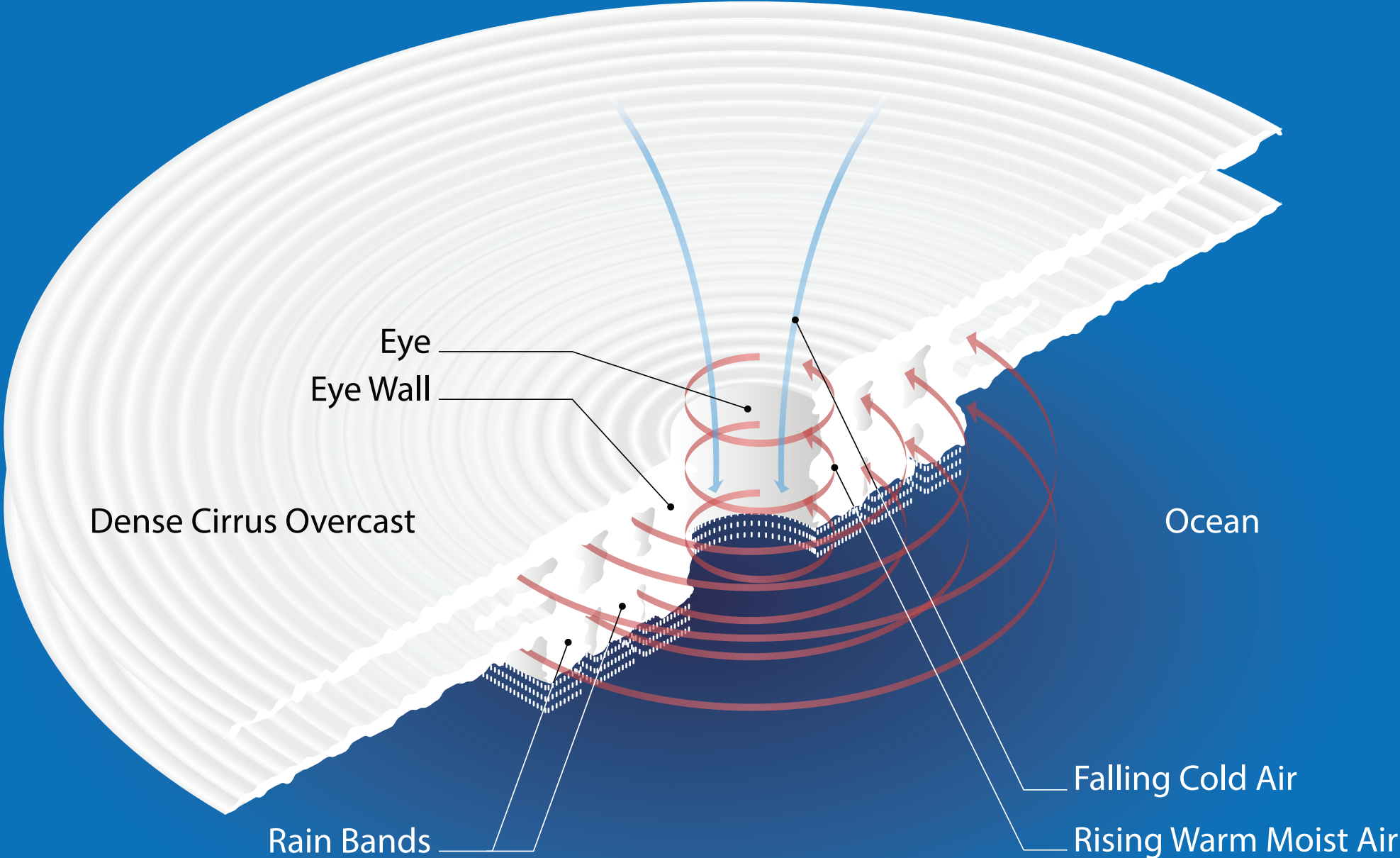


Hurricane, Typhoon, Cyclone ?

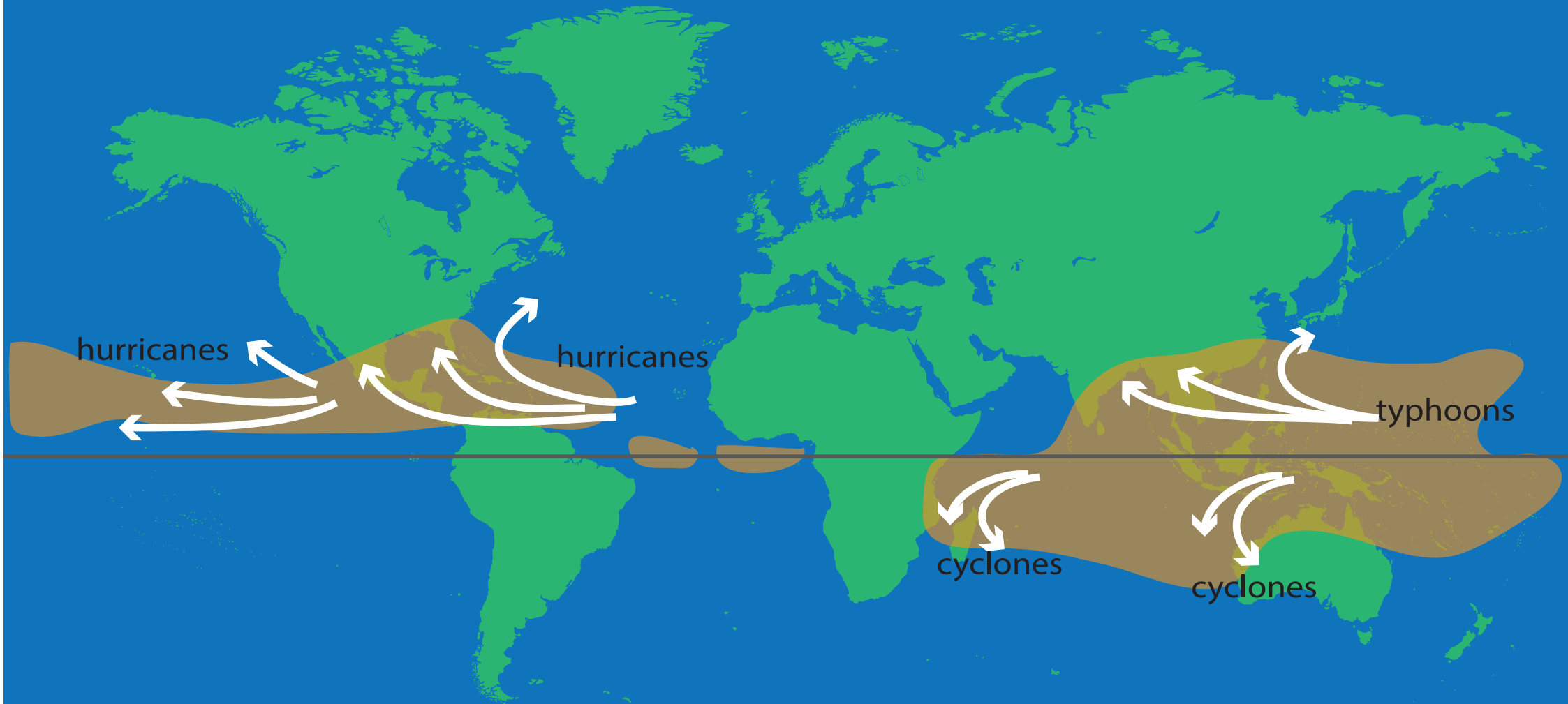
Hurricanes, typhoons and cyclones are all types of tropical storms that produce destructive winds and heavy rainfall. They are very dangerous and cause great damage to property.

- Tropical cyclones are called 'hurricanes' if they develop over the Atlantic or Eastern Pacific Oceans.
- They are called 'typhoons' if they develop over Asian waters in the Northern Hemisphere.
- They are simply called 'cyclones' if they develop in the Southern Hemisphere.

How a Cyclone Forms



Regions for Tropical Storms Activity



Tornadoes

Tornadoes develop in thunderstorms when unstable air that is rapidly rising and falling begins to change directions. This rapidly spinning air forms a funnel. When the funnel meets the ground we call it a tornado.

- Tornado winds usually spin in an anti-clockwise direction in the northern hemisphere and in a clockwise direction in the southern hemisphere.
- Tornadoes occur more frequently in an area of the USA known as Tornado Alley. The most affected states are Texas, Kansas, Oklahoma and Florida.
- Tornadoes are sometimes called twisters.

Regions most affected by tornadoes in USA

(Tornado Alley)



Swirling winds funnel down towards the land during a tornado.



Objects in the path of the funnel are drawn upwards by the destructive winds.



Destruction after a tornado in Oklahoma, USA on May 20th 2013.

