

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS - TROPICAL STORMS

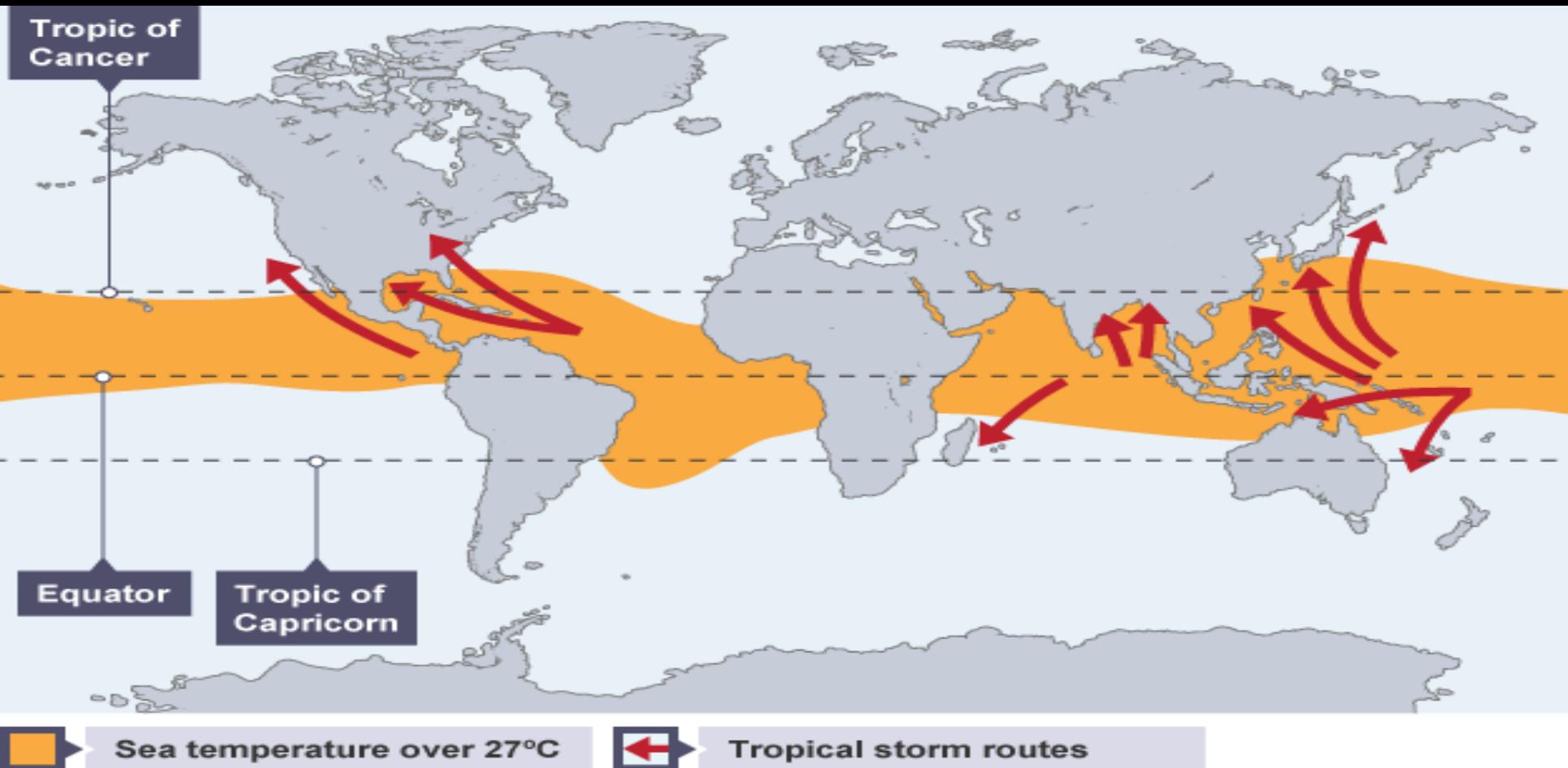
National 4/5

Airdrie Academy

WHAT IS A 'NATURAL HAZARD'?

- A natural hazard is the threat of a naturally occurring event happening in a particular area often without warning, which has negative impacts on people and the landscape. Examples of natural hazards include tropical storms, earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis.
- Natural disasters killed approximately 250,000 people in 2010.

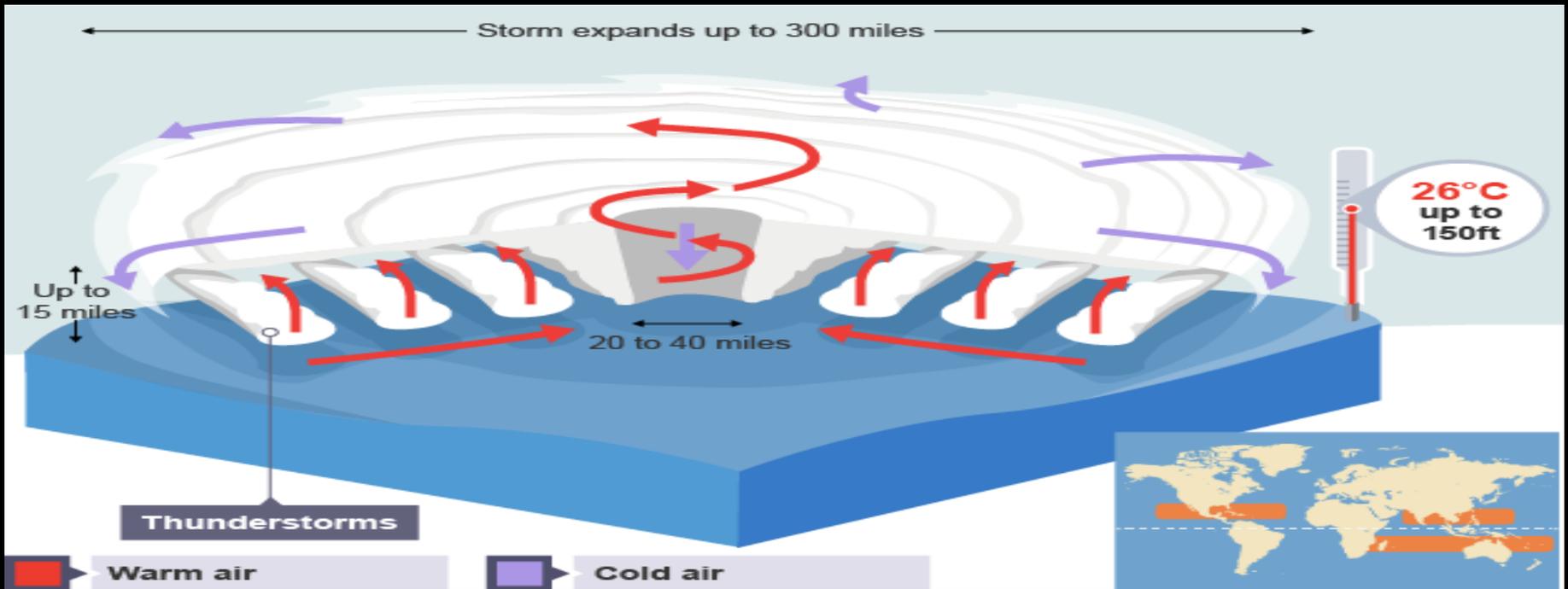
LOCATION



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- Tropical storms are found between the equator and the Tropic of Cancer in the northern hemisphere and between the equator and the Tropic of Capricorn in the southern hemisphere.
- They originate over the eastern side of oceans and move westwards
- When they cross land, they cause great devastation before dying out.
- Tropical storms over 74mph are called hurricanes in the USA, cyclones in India and typhoons in China and Japan.

MAIN FEATURES OF TROPICAL STORMS



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- About 500 million people in 50 countries live in fear of tropical storms
- They kill more people each year than earthquakes or volcanoes
- Some areas/parts of a tropical storm are much more deadly than others

MAIN FEATURES OF TROPICAL STORMS

1. As the storm approaches, the air pressure and temperature drop, while cloud cover and rainfall increase.
2. Near the centre, at the eye-wall, huge clouds rise up, torrential rain falls and wind speeds reach their maximum
3. At the centre, the eye is calm, clear, warm and dry.
4. After the centre is the other eye wall and the same weather as 2. is experienced again
5. At the edge of the storm, the air pressure and temperature rise, while cloud cover and rain fall decrease.

CONDITIONS NEEDED FOR TROPICAL STORMS

- Tropical storms are only found in certain areas of the world
 - These are the areas that have the necessary conditions for them to form
1. Warm seas, which have a surface temperature of 27°C or more (and warm water to a depth of at least 60m)
 2. Low air pressure, with the air beginning to rise
 3. Damp moist air with a relative humidity of 60%

FIVE STAGES OF A TROPICAL STORM FORMATION

