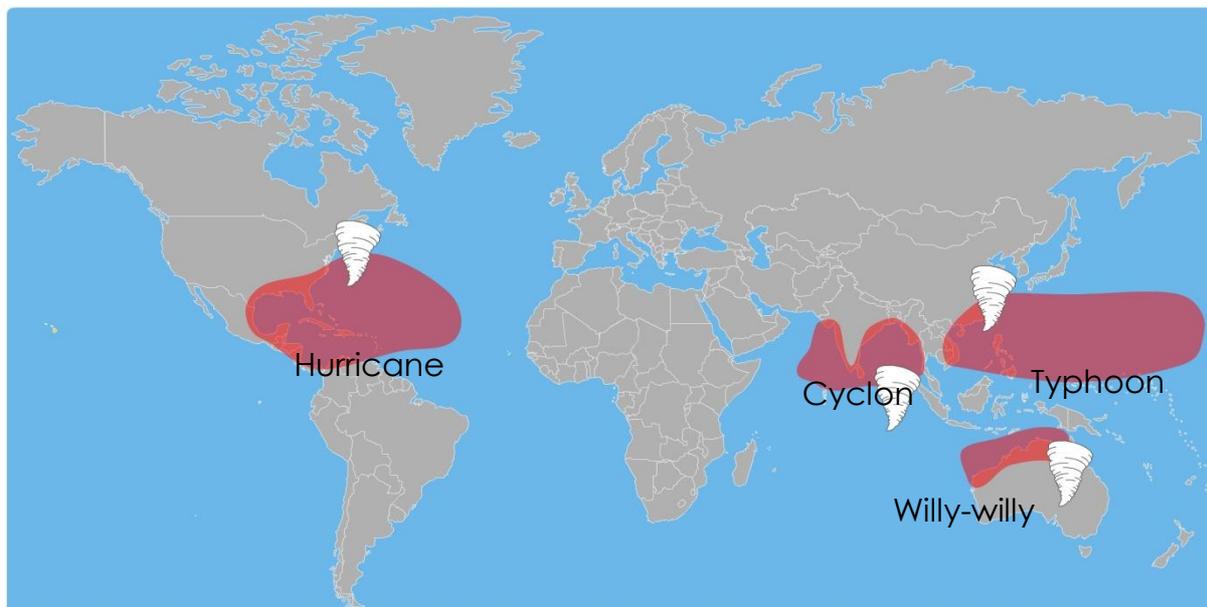


How do cyclones form?

Tropical cyclones form over tropical seas. Tropical seas are warm seas near the equator. A large number of small storms with strong winds occur. These storms slowly join together to form a vortex. This vortex can be several hundred kilometers across, and thunderstorms and strong winds take place inside it. The middle of the cyclone is called the “eye” of the storm. The weather there is nice and calm. A tropical cyclone that forms over the Atlantic Ocean is called a **hurricane**. In regions around the Indian Ocean, it is known as a **cyclone**. In the western Pacific Ocean, it is called a **typhoon**. The Australians even have a special name for their cyclones: **willy-willy**.



Tropical storms can travel for days. As they cross islands or pass over sea coasts, they leave a trail of destruction. Trees are uprooted, even houses can be destroyed, and cars are whirled through the air. The storm can reach speeds of 200 km/hour. Luckily, cyclones quickly lose their strength when they reach a mainland, in other words, over large land masses. So they usually affect only coastal regions.

By the way, a cyclone can also form over land from huge thunder clouds. This type of storm is called a **tornado**. It is similar to a whirlpool.

Assignment

Create a tornado in a jar.

You need:

Water, a tall jar, something for stirring (spoon, stick), ink.

What to do:

- Fill the jar three quarters full with water.
- Stir with the spoon or stick as fast as possible in one direction. You will see that a whirlpool forms in the jar.
- Add a few drops of ink to the water. What happens? Write your observation down.

