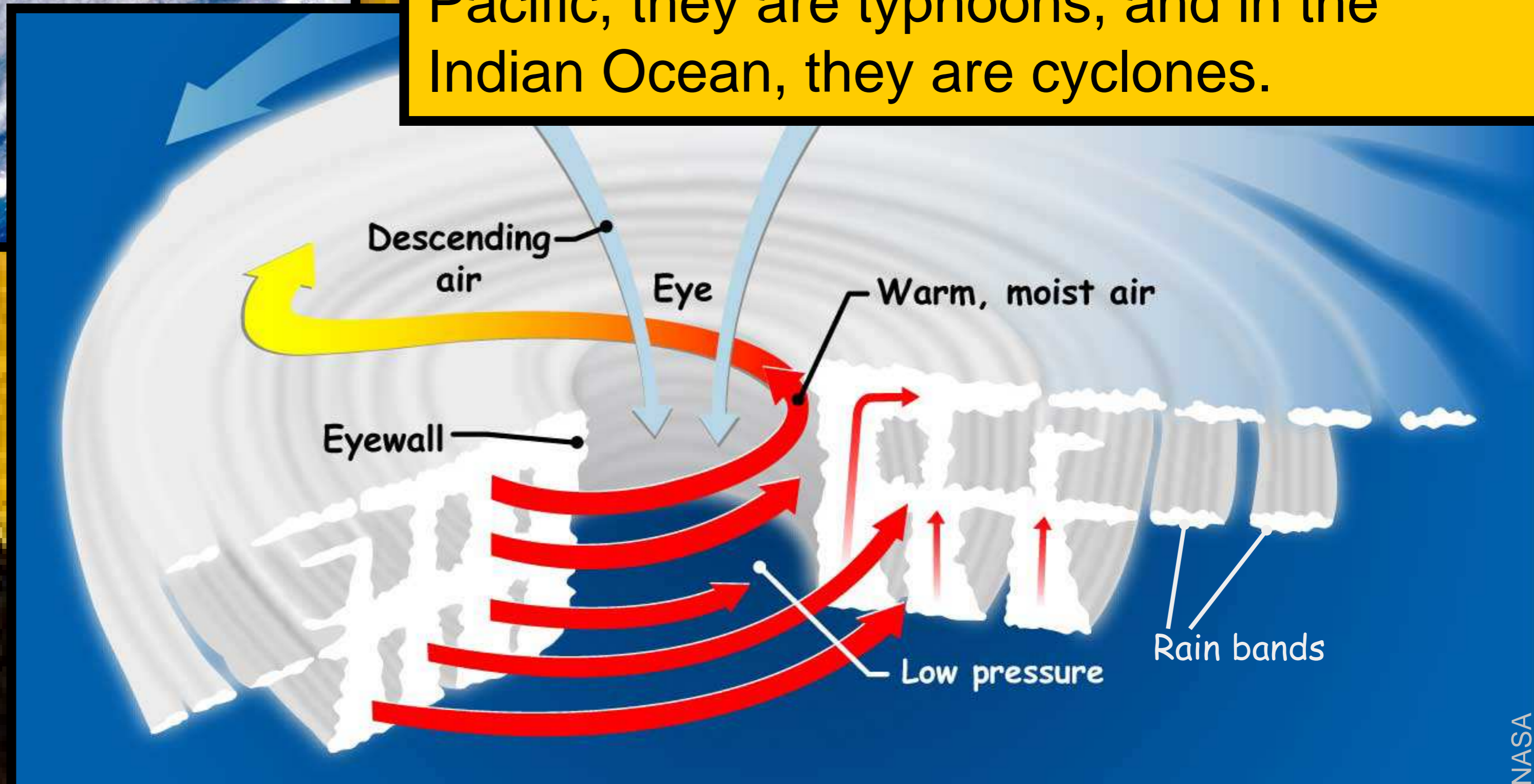
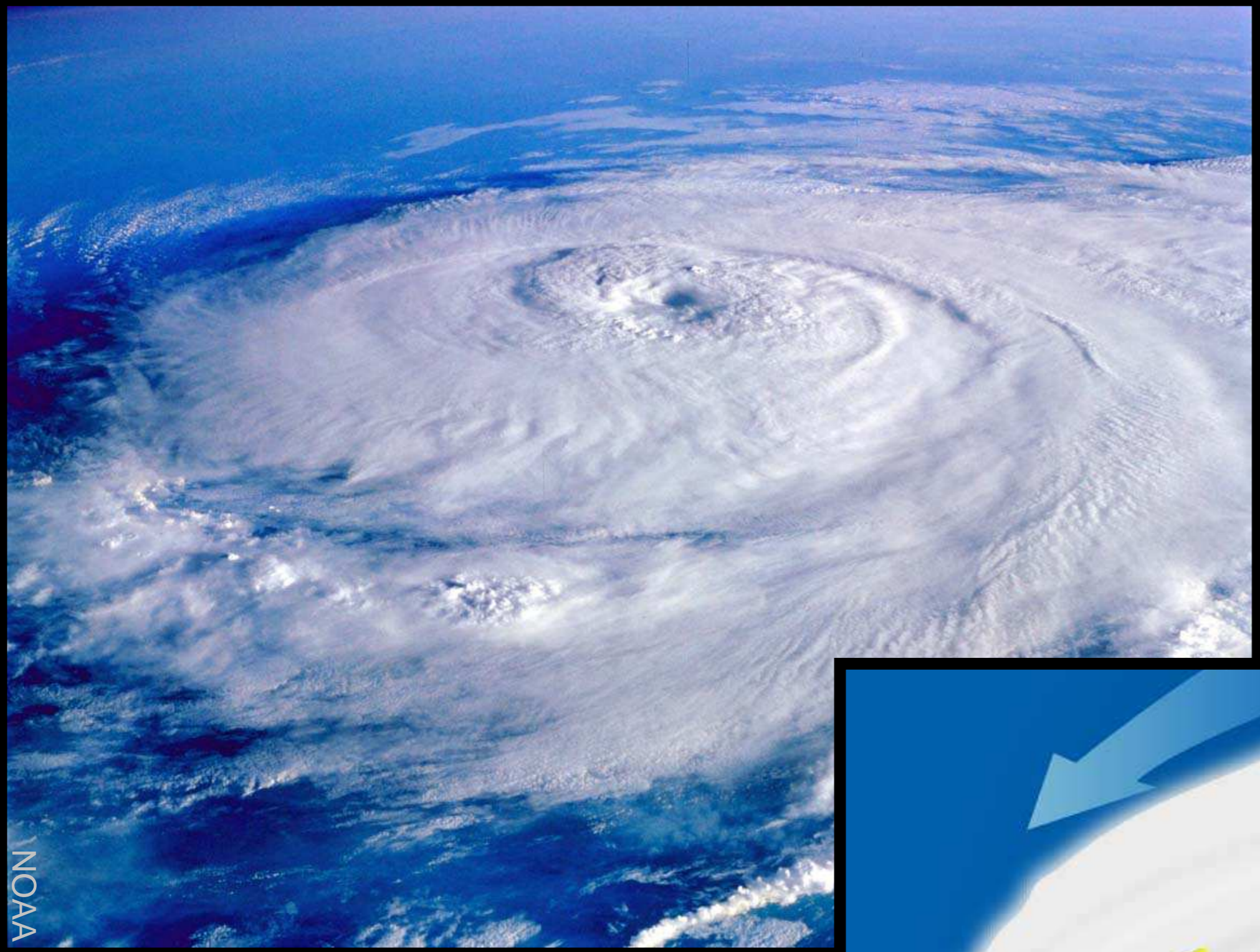


Hurricanes

Hurricanes are spiralling storms; they can be over 400 miles wide. They are only called hurricanes in the Atlantic – in the Pacific, they are typhoons, and in the Indian Ocean, they are cyclones.



Hurricanes are heat engines. They take heat energy from the surface of tropical seas and release that energy high in the atmosphere. Hurricanes only form over tropical oceans – if they reach land or colder seas, they begin to run out of energy.

Hurricanes only form in certain places, and most follow the same paths. They begin as tropical storms, which can grow into hurricanes.



The deadliest hurricane hazard is called a storm surge. Strong winds push seawater onto the land causing a huge flood.

A tropical storm becomes a Category 1 hurricane once wind speed reaches 74 mph. Category 5 hurricanes are the worst – they have wind speeds over 155 mph.



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