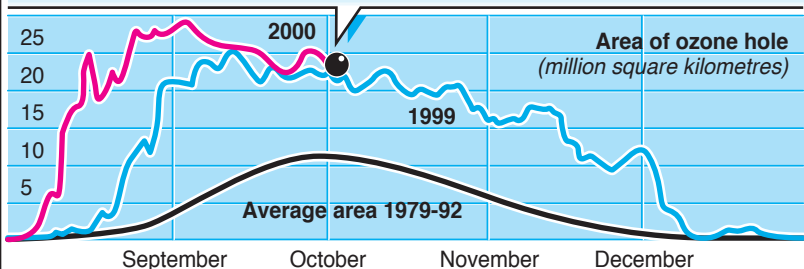
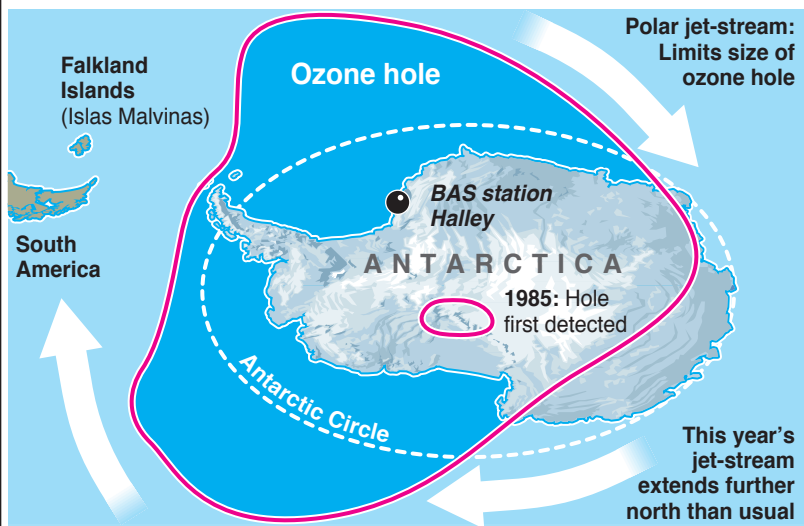


Monster millennium ozone hole

This year's ozone hole is now the largest ever recorded, covering an area almost three times the size of the United States. Although its size has stabilized, readings at monitoring stations around the Antarctic rim report ozone levels up to 70 percent below normal



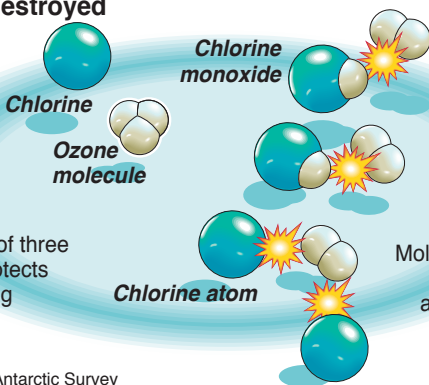
How ozone is destroyed

1. CFCs

Chlorine atoms released when CFCs broken up by ultraviolet light in ozone layer

2. Ozone (O_3)

Molecule made up of three oxygen atoms – protects the earth by blocking harmful ultraviolet light from the sun



3. Chlorine

Attacks ozone – stealing single oxygen atom – to make chlorine monoxide

4. Chlorine monoxide

Molecules split apart, releasing chlorine atoms that destroy more ozone