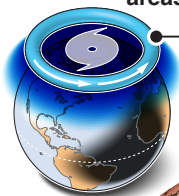


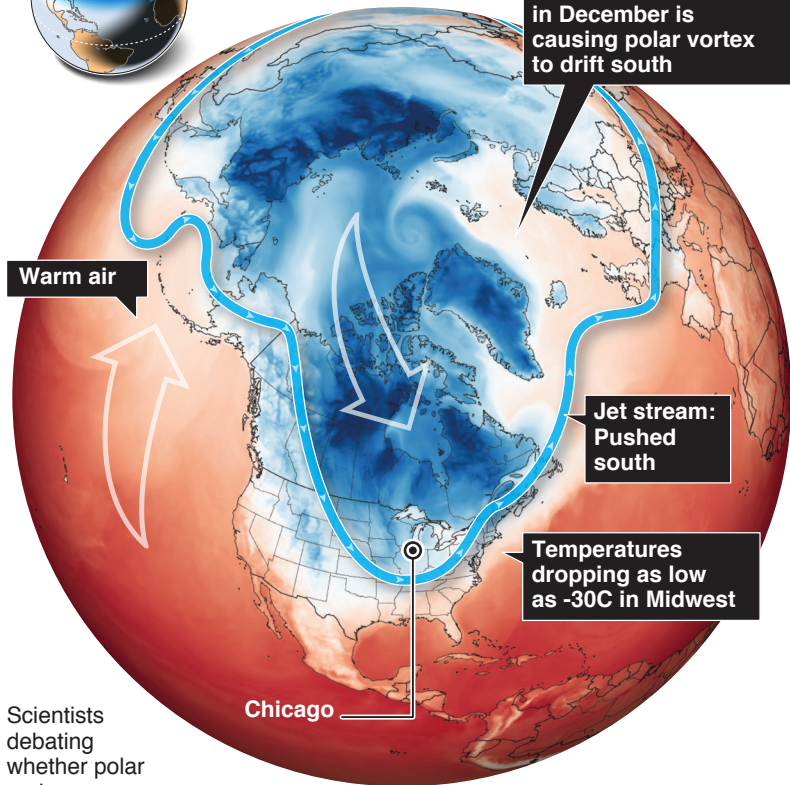
# Polar vortex freezes U.S. Midwest

The polar vortex is bringing deadly cold weather to large areas of the U.S. for the second time since 2014



**Polar Vortex:** Spinning pool of cold air normally circles stratosphere over North Pole

Sudden warming above North Pole caused by blast of hot air from Morocco in December is causing polar vortex to drift south



Warm air

Jet stream:  
Pushed south

Temperatures dropping as low as -30C in Midwest

Chicago

**Air temperature at 2 metres**  
(Degrees Celsius), Jan 29



Scientists debating whether polar vortices are occurring more frequently, and if this is due to climate change

Sources: NASA,  
National Weather Service

Picture: NASA

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