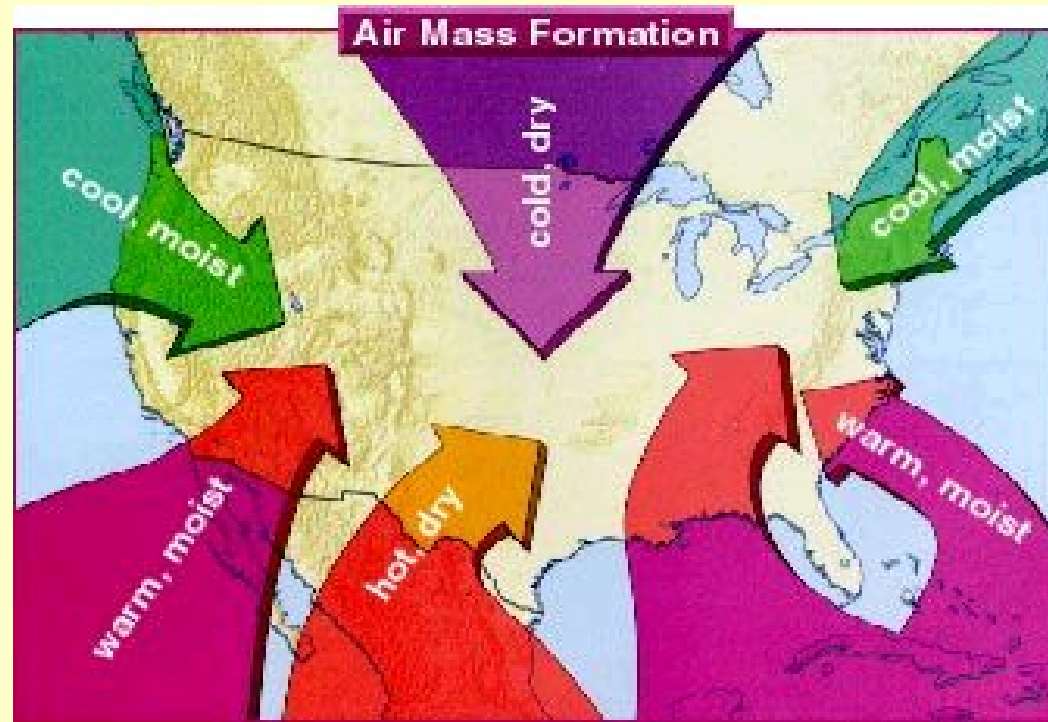


Air Masses



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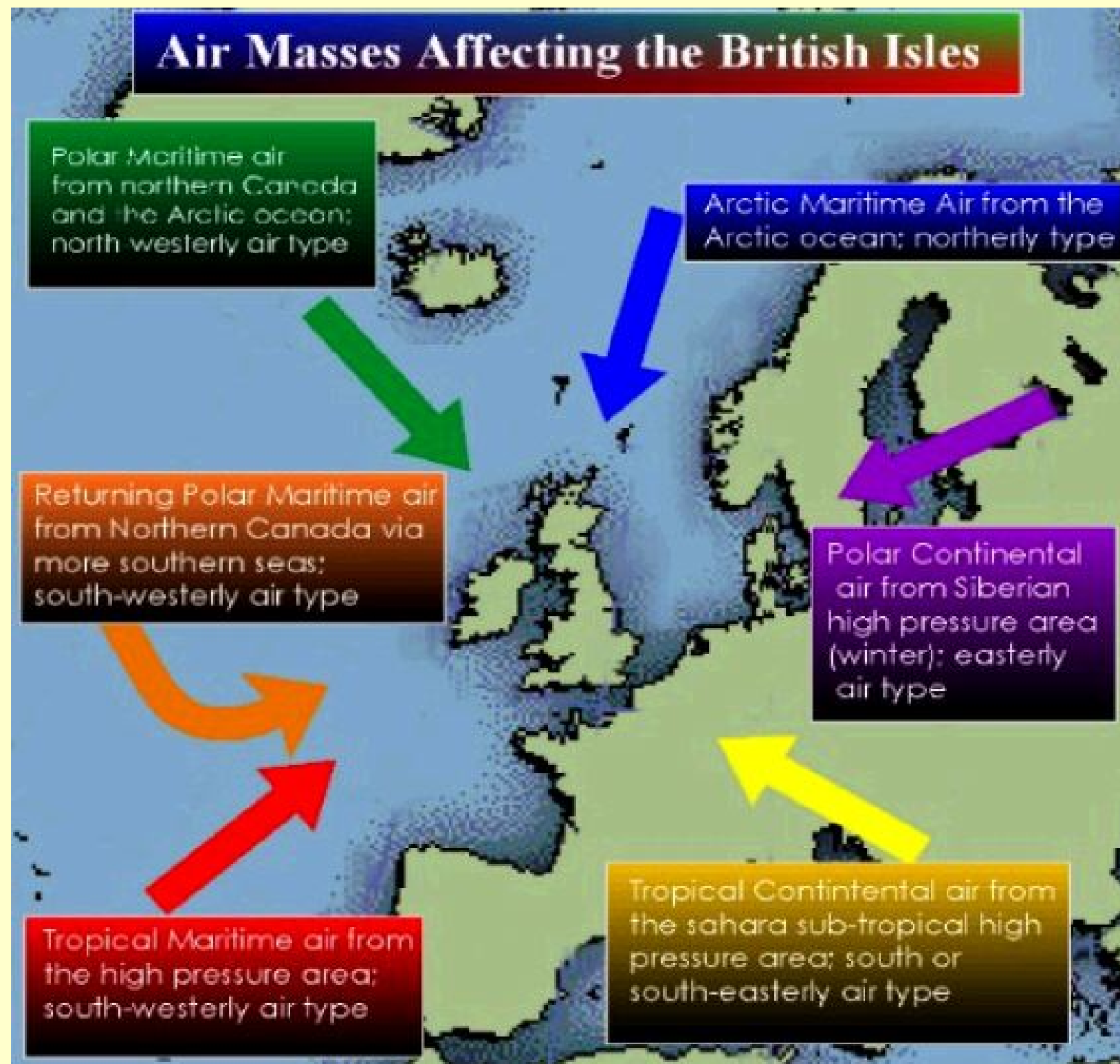
<http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/radgeog/>

What is an air mass?

- An air mass is a large body of air with similar **temperature** and/or **humidity**.
- Air masses form in stable “**source regions**” such as in the sub tropics or near to the poles.

Air Mass types

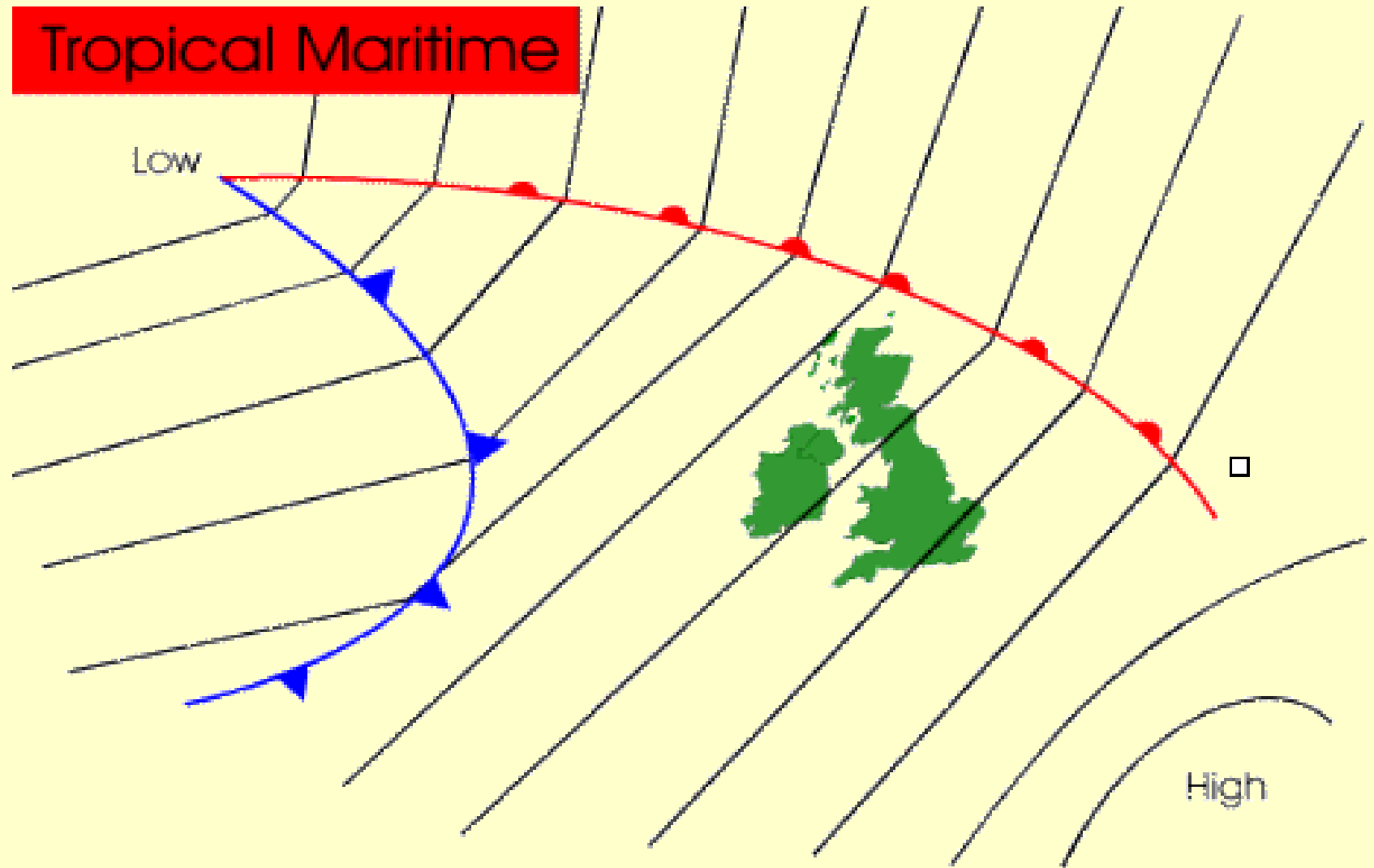
Five main air masses affect Europe



Air mass classification

- Tropical Maritime (Tm) - mild and moist
- Tropical Continental (Tc) - warm and dry
- Polar Maritime (Pm) - cool and moist
- Polar Continental (Pc) - cold and dry
- Arctic Maritime (Am) - cold and moist

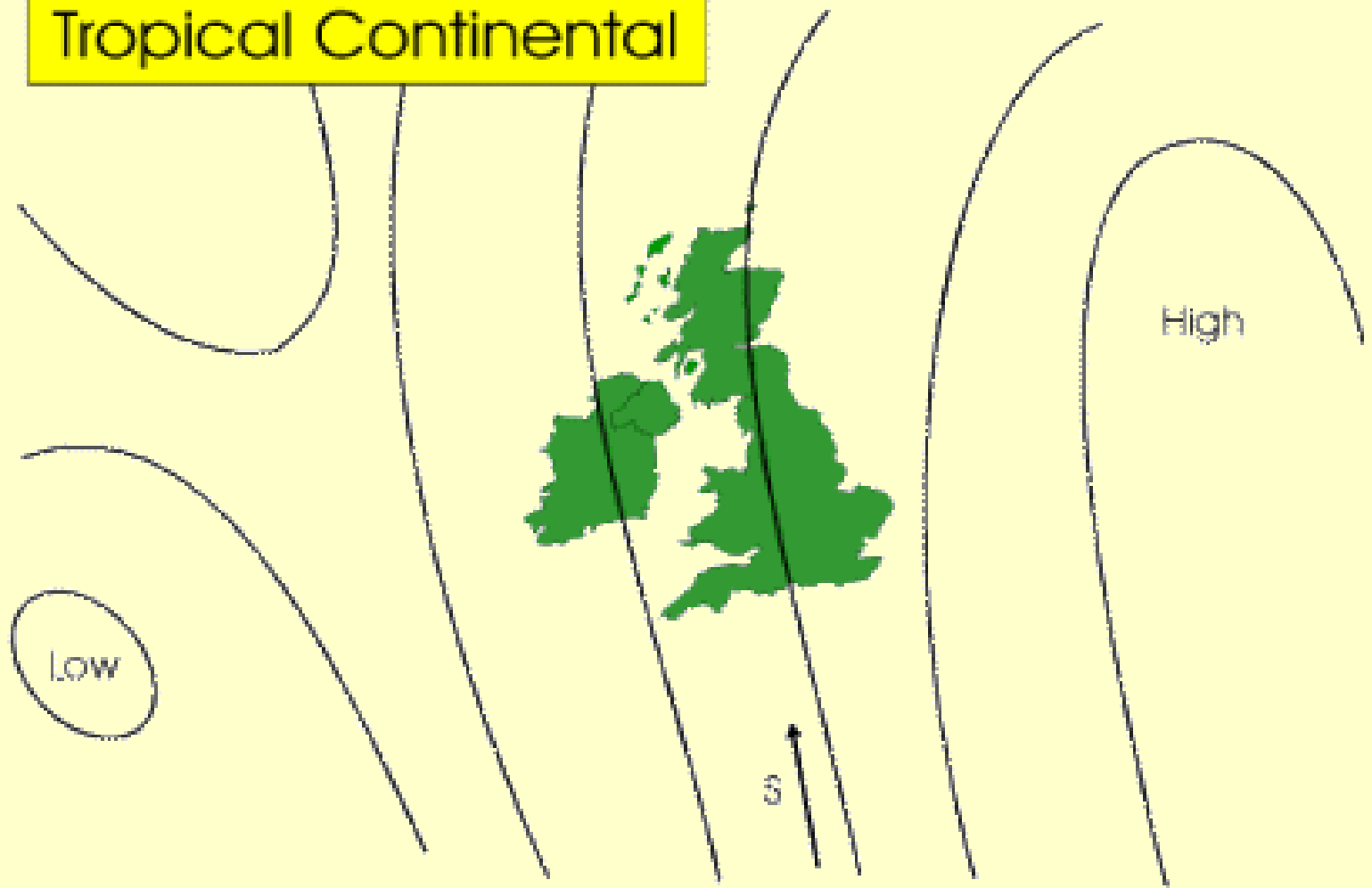
Tropical Maritime



Tropical
Maritime

Tm air masses come from the south west and originate over the Azores or the Caribbean. They bring mild, damp, cloudy weather.

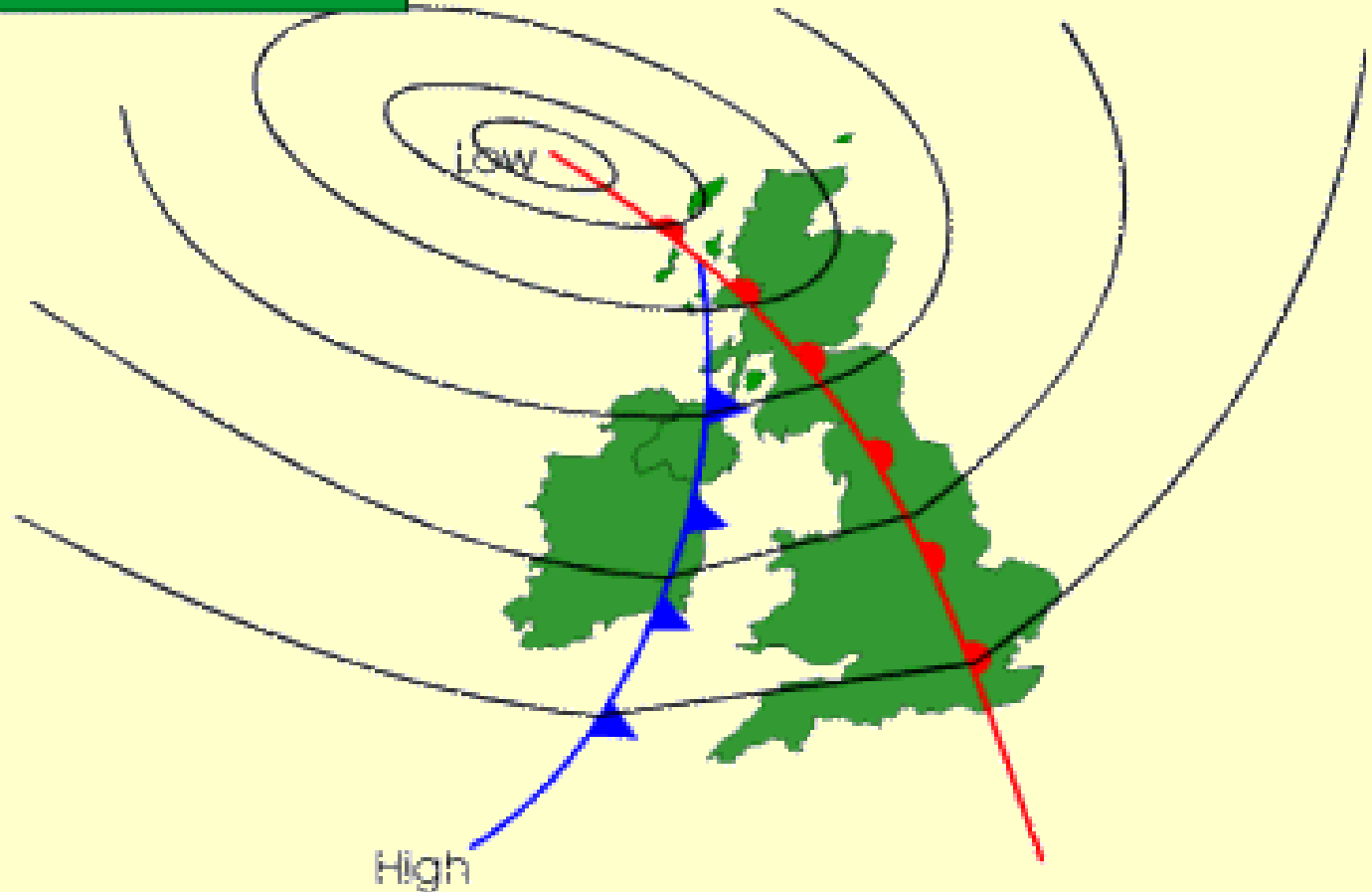
Tropical Continental



Tropical
Continental

Tc air masses come from the south and originate over dry northern Africa . They bring hot, dry weather and summer heatwaves.

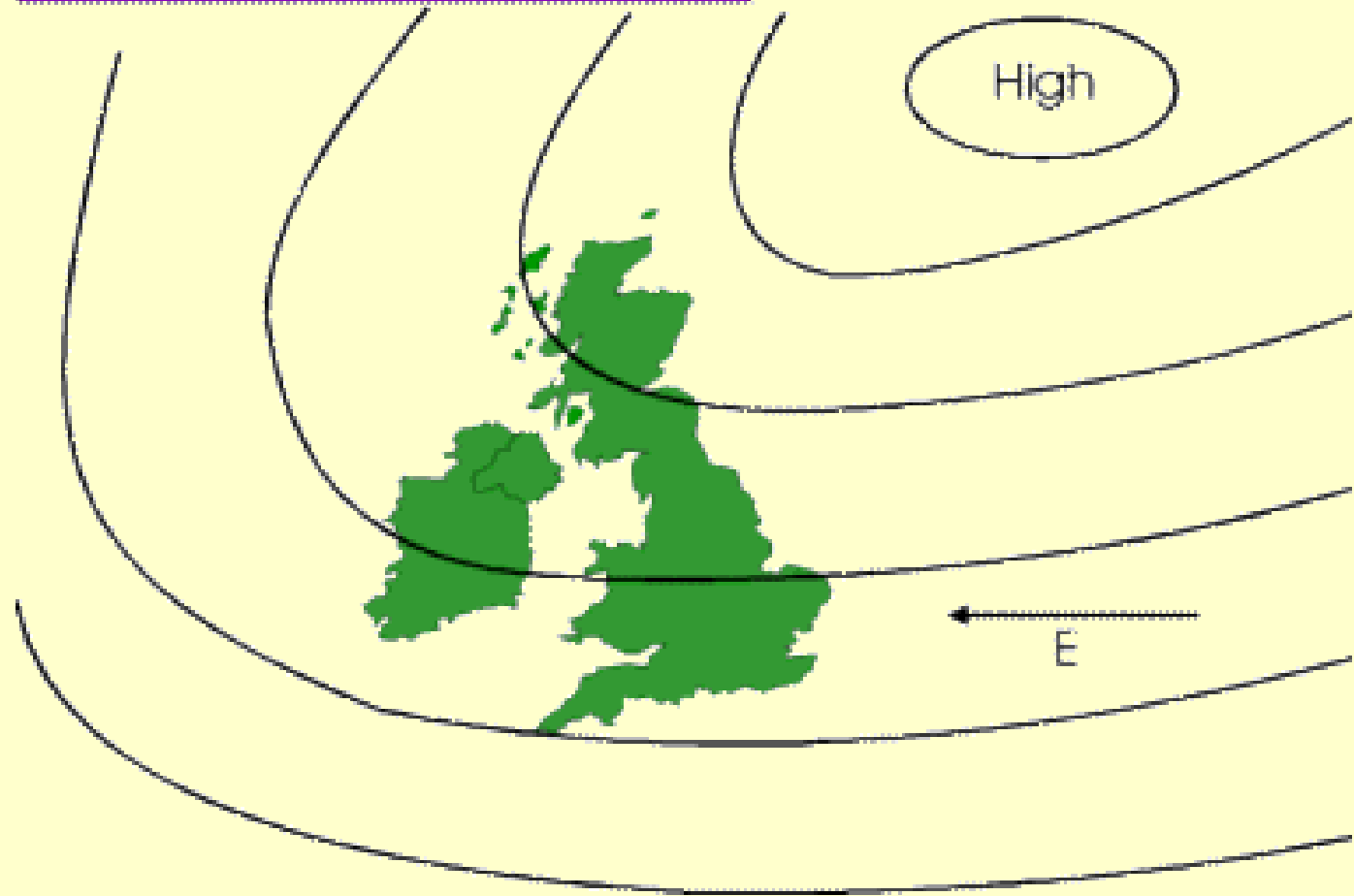
Polar Maritime



Polar
Maritime

Pm air masses come from the north-west and originate over the north Atlantic. They bring cool, moist conditions.

Polar Continental



Polar Continental

Pc air masses come from the east and originate over Scandinavia and Russia . They bring clear dry conditions - cold in winter, warm in summer.