



NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

SIMON
WINCHESTER

THE DAY THE WORLD EXPLODED:
AUGUST 27, 1883

Krakatoa

HARPER'S WEEKLY

INDONESIA

613

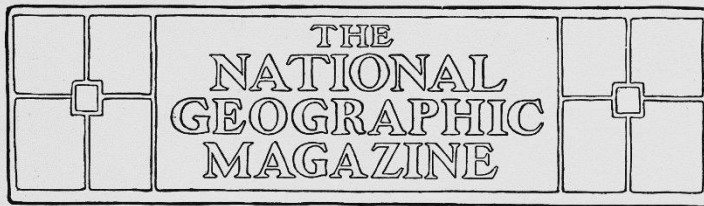


VOLCANO OF KRAKATOA, STRAIT OF SUNDA, SUBMERGED DURING THE LATE ERUPTION.—[SEE PAGE 614.]

VOL. XXIV, No. 2

WASHINGTON

FEBRUARY, 1913



THE RECENT ERUPTION OF KATMAI VOLCANO IN ALASKA

An Account of One of the Most Tremendous Volcanic
Explosions Known in History

BY GEORGE C. MARTIN

*Mr. Martin is the geologist of the U. S. Geological Survey who directed the
National Geographic Society Alaska volcano researches in 1912*

THE volcanic eruption of Mount
Katmai, Alaska, of June, 1912,
was undoubtedly one of the most
recent eruptions of historic times.

This volcano was one of the least
known of the many Alaskan volcanic
cones, and had been so long dormant
there were apparently not even local
records of its former outbreaks. No
official warnings of its renewed activity
were given other than copious steaming
and minor earthquakes. These attracted
attention even among the few dwell-
ers on the thinly settled land, for dozens
of volcanoes along the Alaskan
coast have been active from time to time.
The volcano is usually hidden in the clouds,
and earthquakes are so frequent as to
draw little comment.

Other people than the few local
settlers and the comparatively few
traders have had occasion to sail
through the Kotikof Strait, the very exist-
ence of Katmai Volcano was doubtless

known without warning, on the 6th of
June, 1912, the Katmai Volcano pro-
duced a violent eruption. All
about the world knew of the event at
the sound of the first mighty

explosion carried down the coast as far
as Juneau, 750 miles away, and was even
heard across the Alaska Range at Daw-
son and Fairbanks, distant 650 and 500
miles respectively.

THE FIRST ERUPTION

Those who did not hear the sound of
this first blast, or did not feel the accom-
panying earthquakes, did not have to wait
long for another form of announcement.
The column of steam and ash rose sev-
eral miles in the air and was immedi-
ately seen as far away as Clark Lake
and Cook Inlet. This cloud of ash was
driven eastward by the wind and with-
in a few hours had shed a shower of
ashes over all the east end of the Alaska Pen-
insula, the east half of Kodiak Island,
all of Afognak Island (see map, page
132).

Intense darkness accompanied the
fall of ashes. Midnight blackness in the
time extended as far east as the
Alaskan Peninsula. Darkness lasted for
several hours at Kodiak, 100 miles from the
volcano. Dust fell as far away as Juneau,
Ketchikan, and the Yukon Valley, dis-
tances of 900, and 600 miles. The furthest
reported from points as remote as

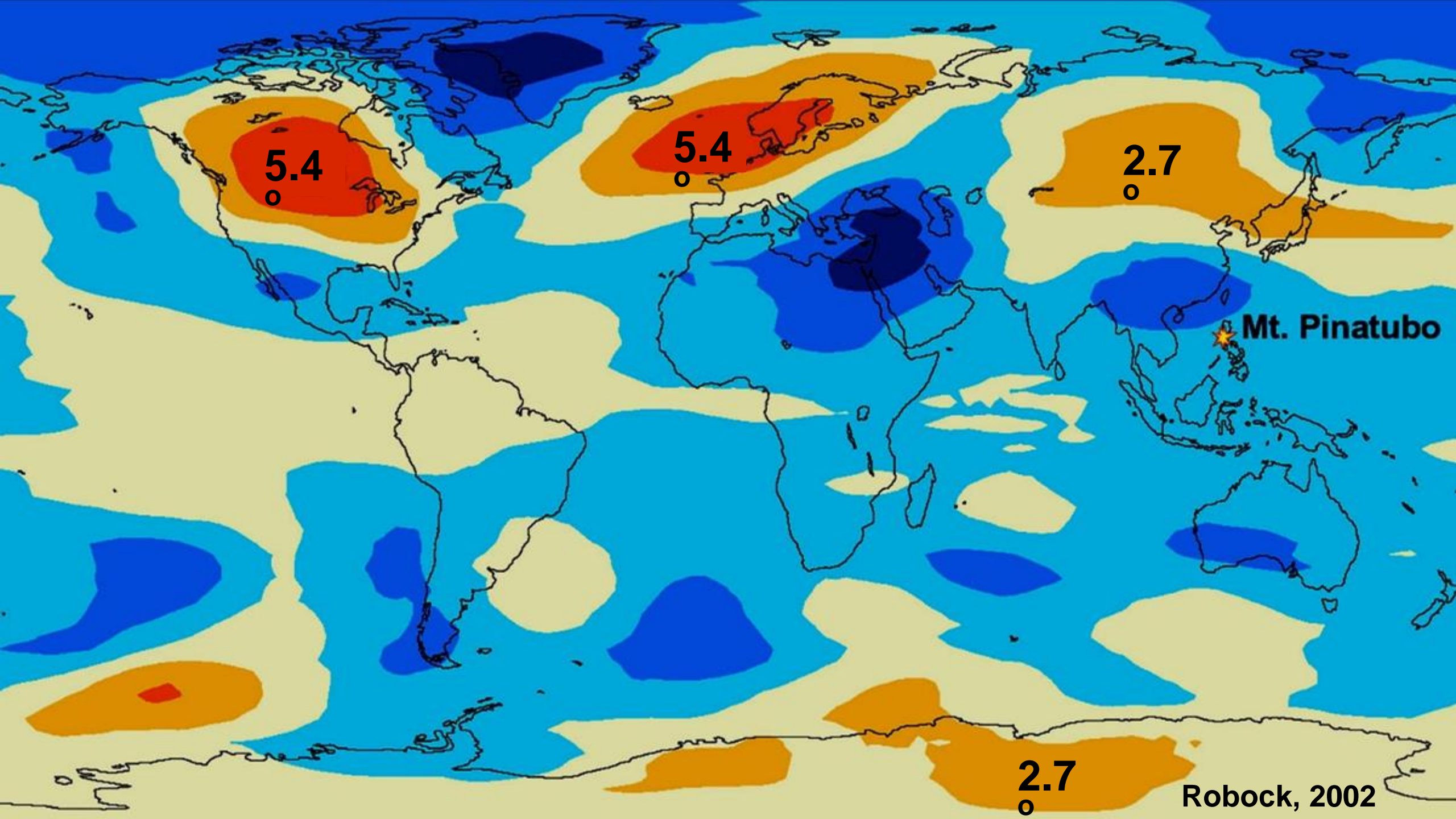


THE YEAR
WITHOUT SUMMER:

1816

AND THE VOLCANO
THAT DARKENED THE WORLD
AND CHANGED HISTORY

WILLIAM K. KLINGAMAN
AND NICHOLAS P. KLINGAMAN



Robock, 2002



Pinatubo, 1991



Lasting Hours
Explosive → Cooling

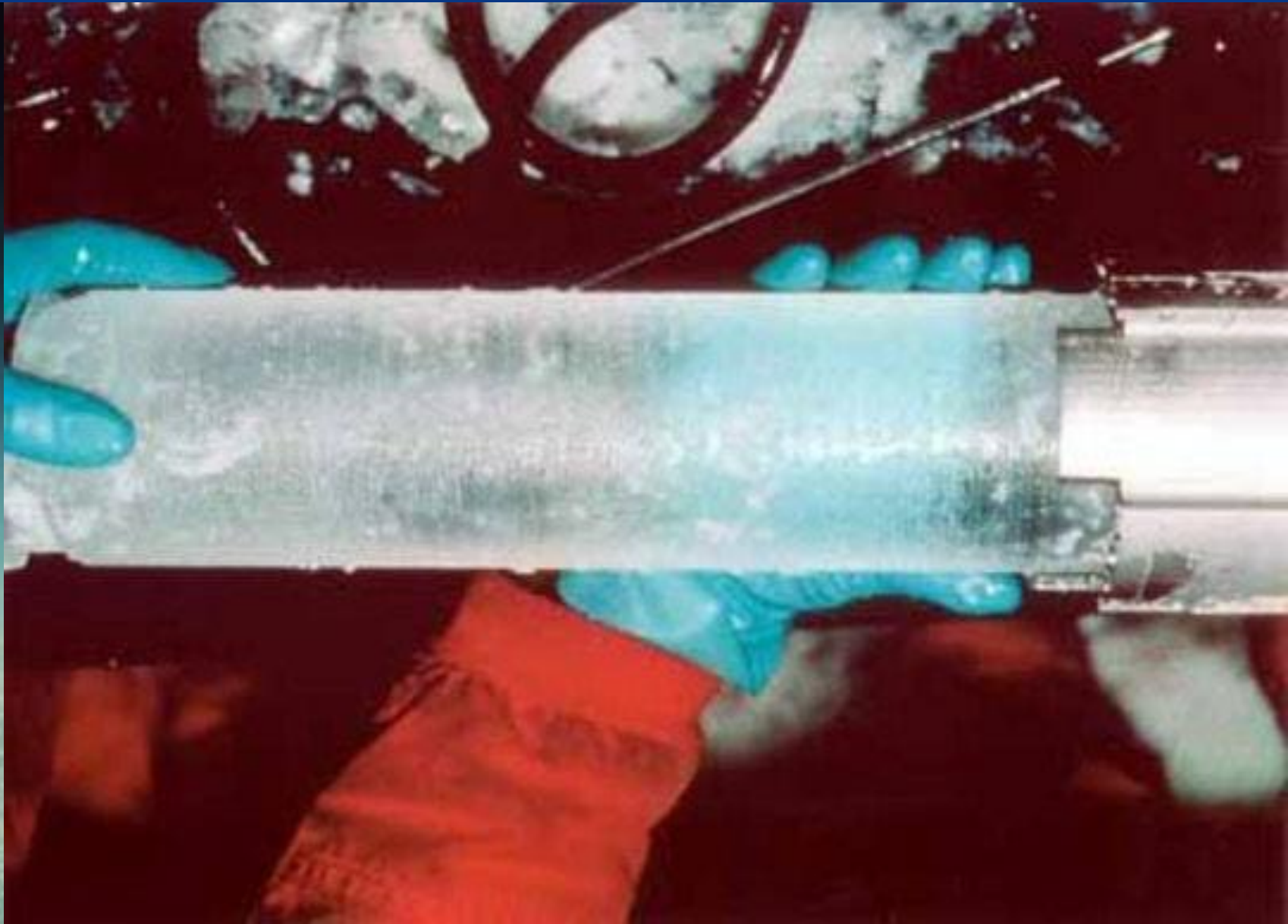
Bárðarbunga, 2014-2015

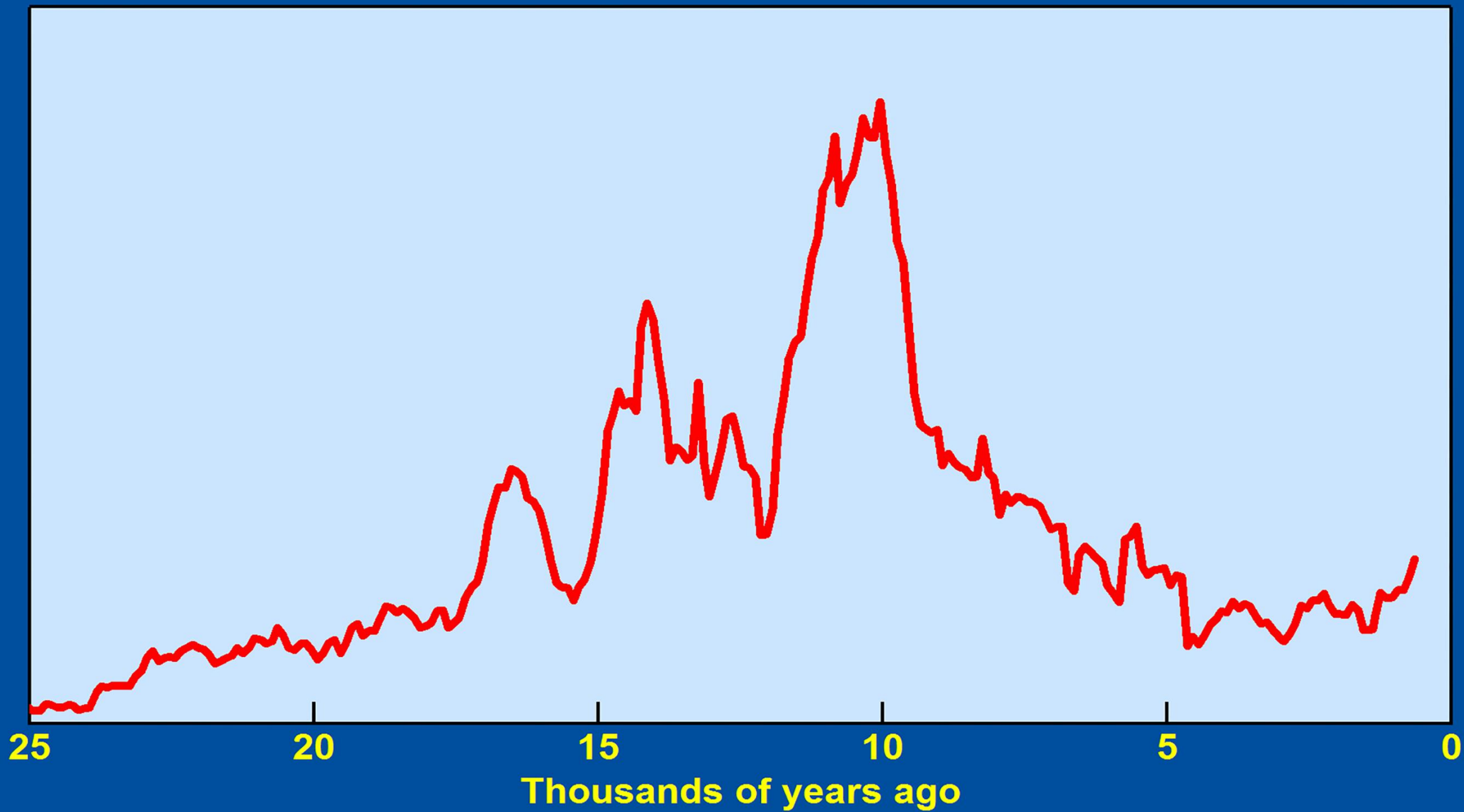


Lasting > Months
Effusive → Warming

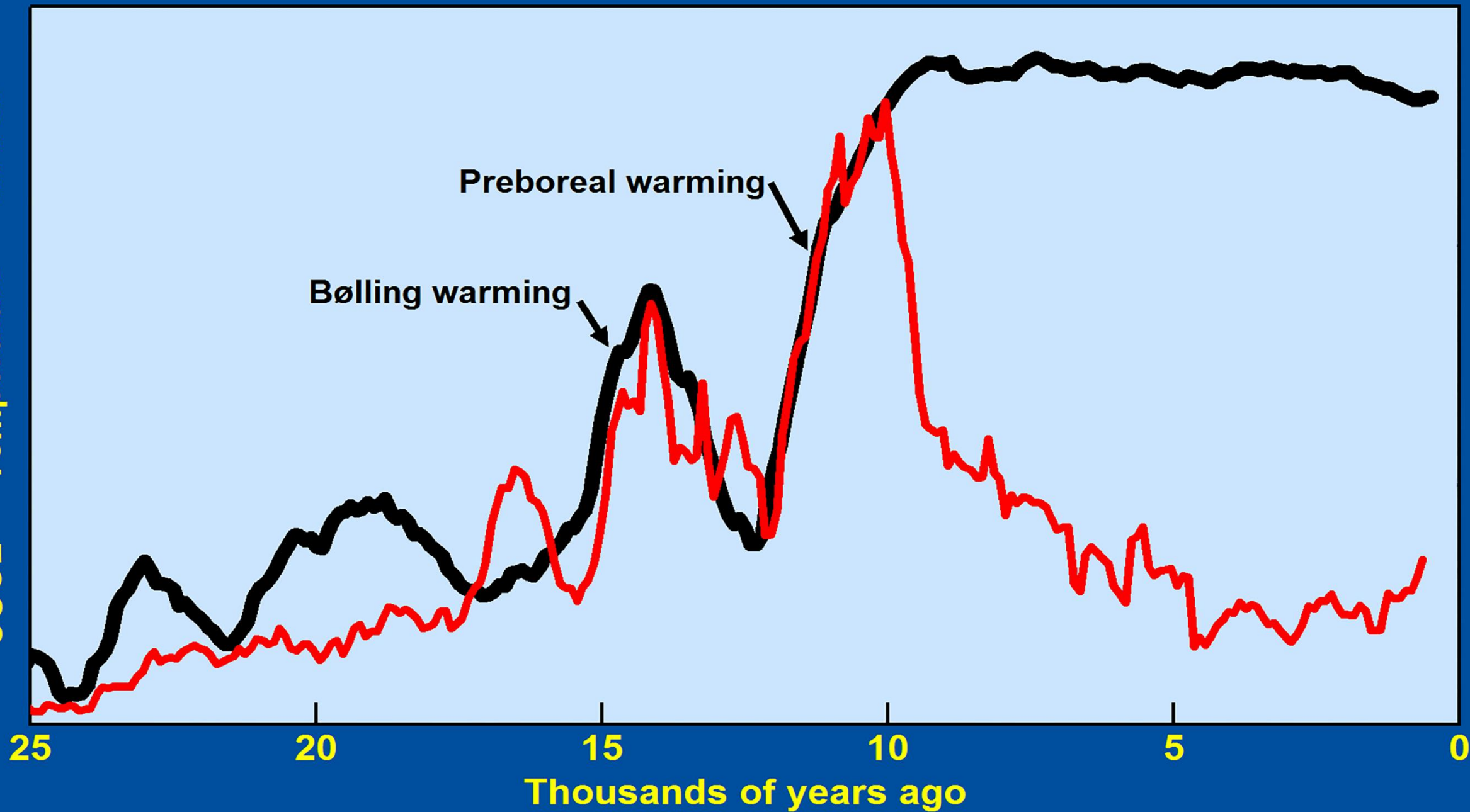


Greenland Ice Sheet Program Drill Hole 2 (GISP2)





WARM
Temperature
COOL



Warm

Cold

120

100

80

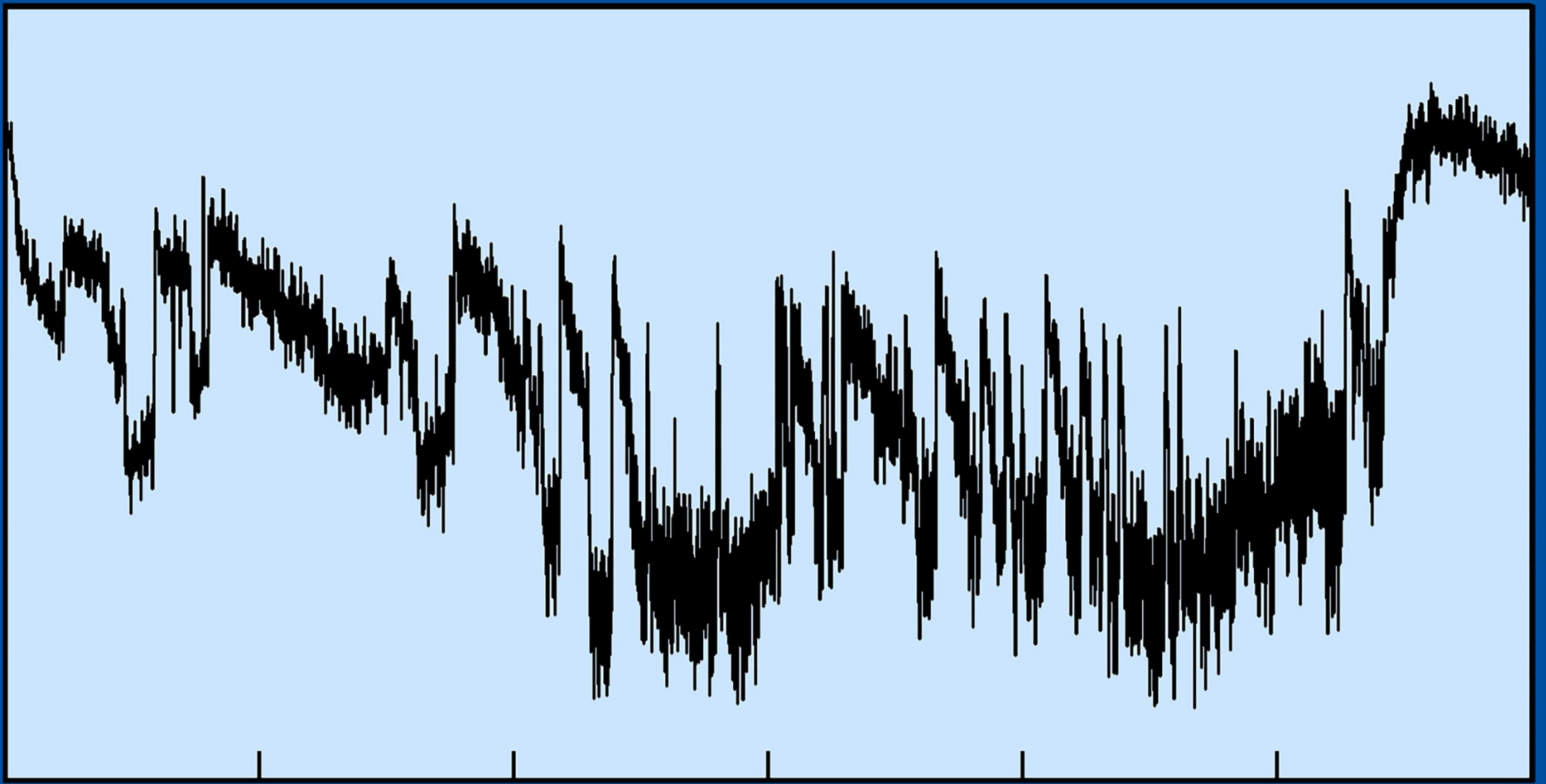
60

40

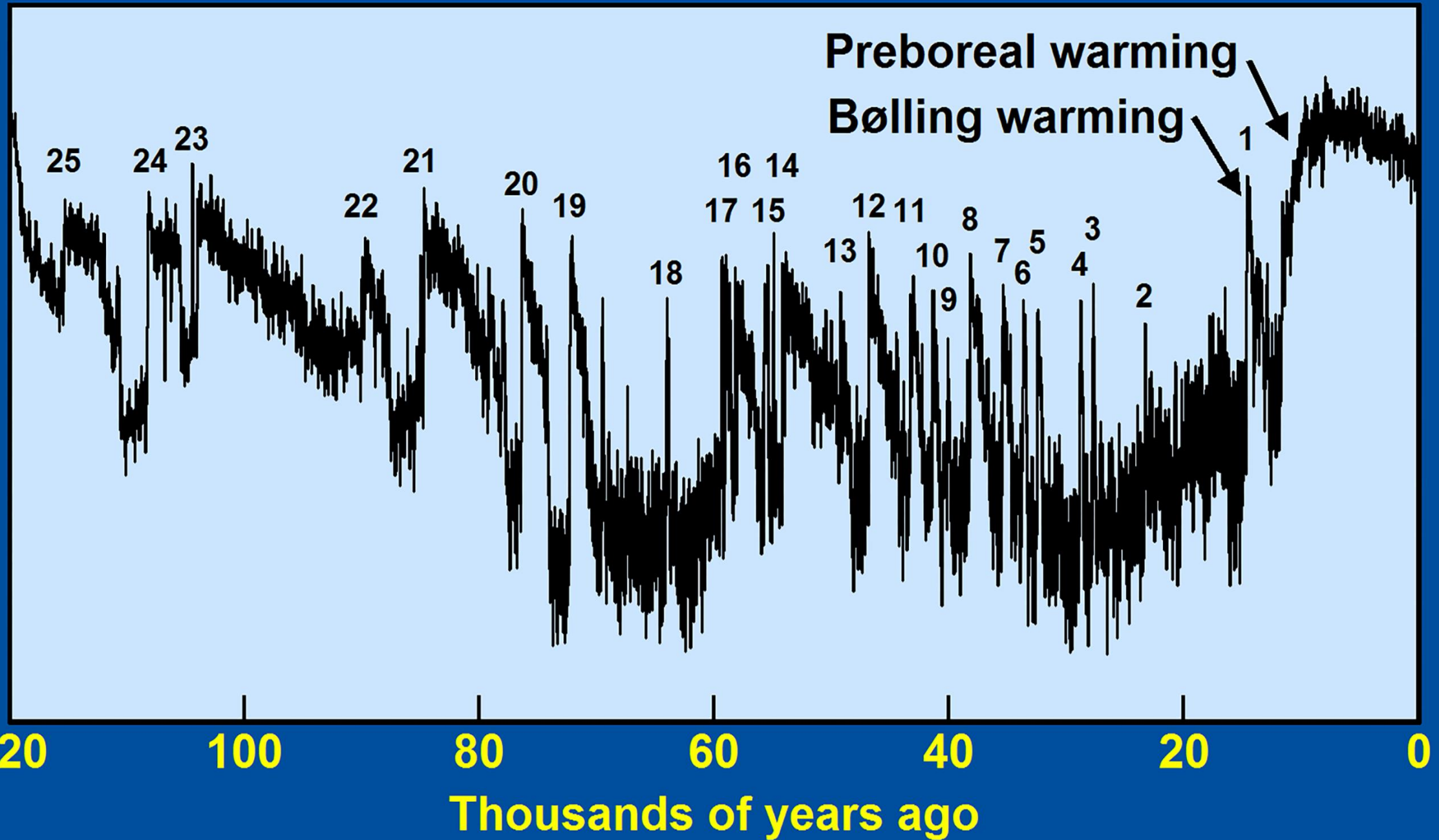
20

0

Thousands of years ago



Warm



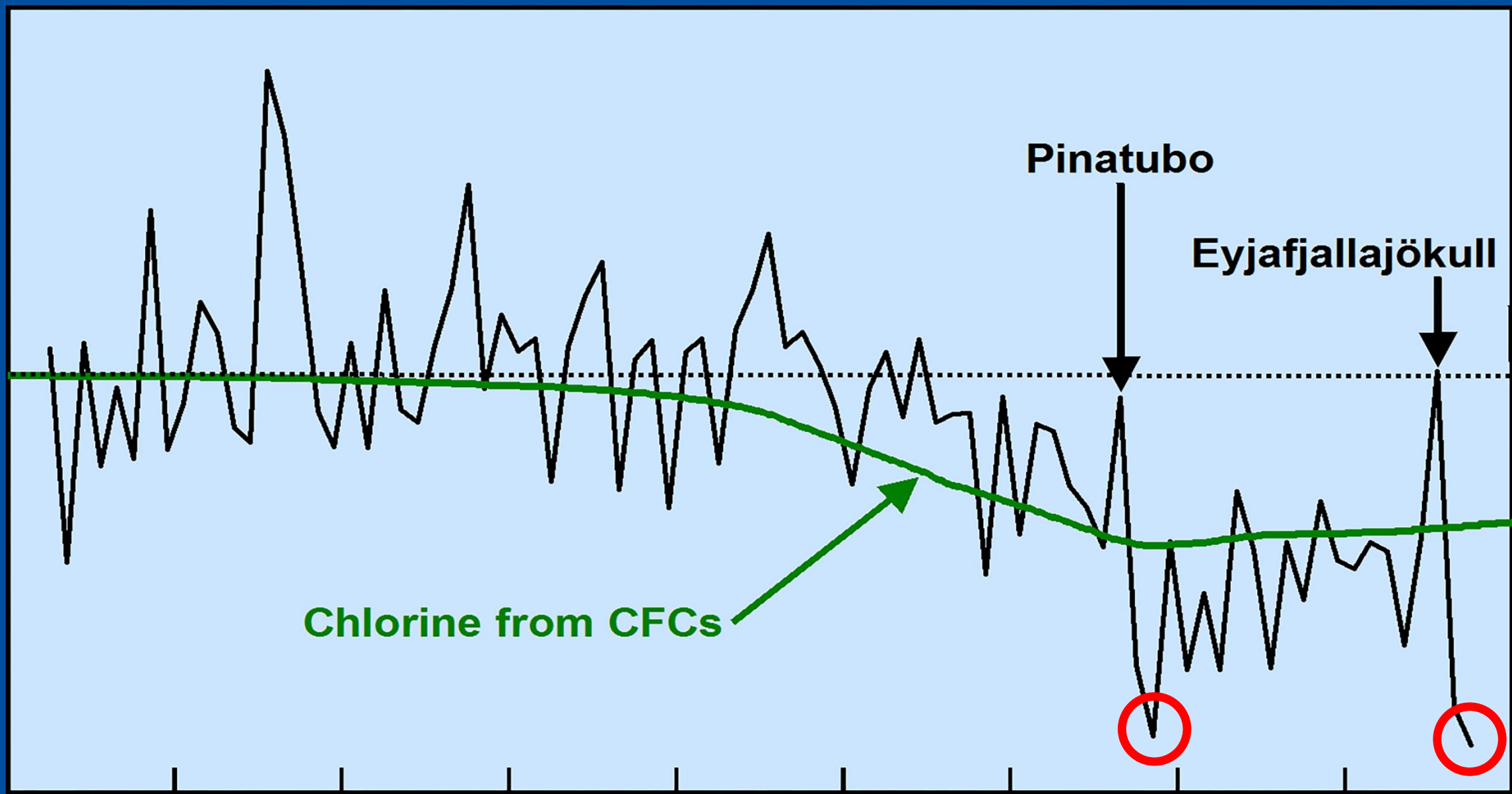
Annual average ozone at Arosa

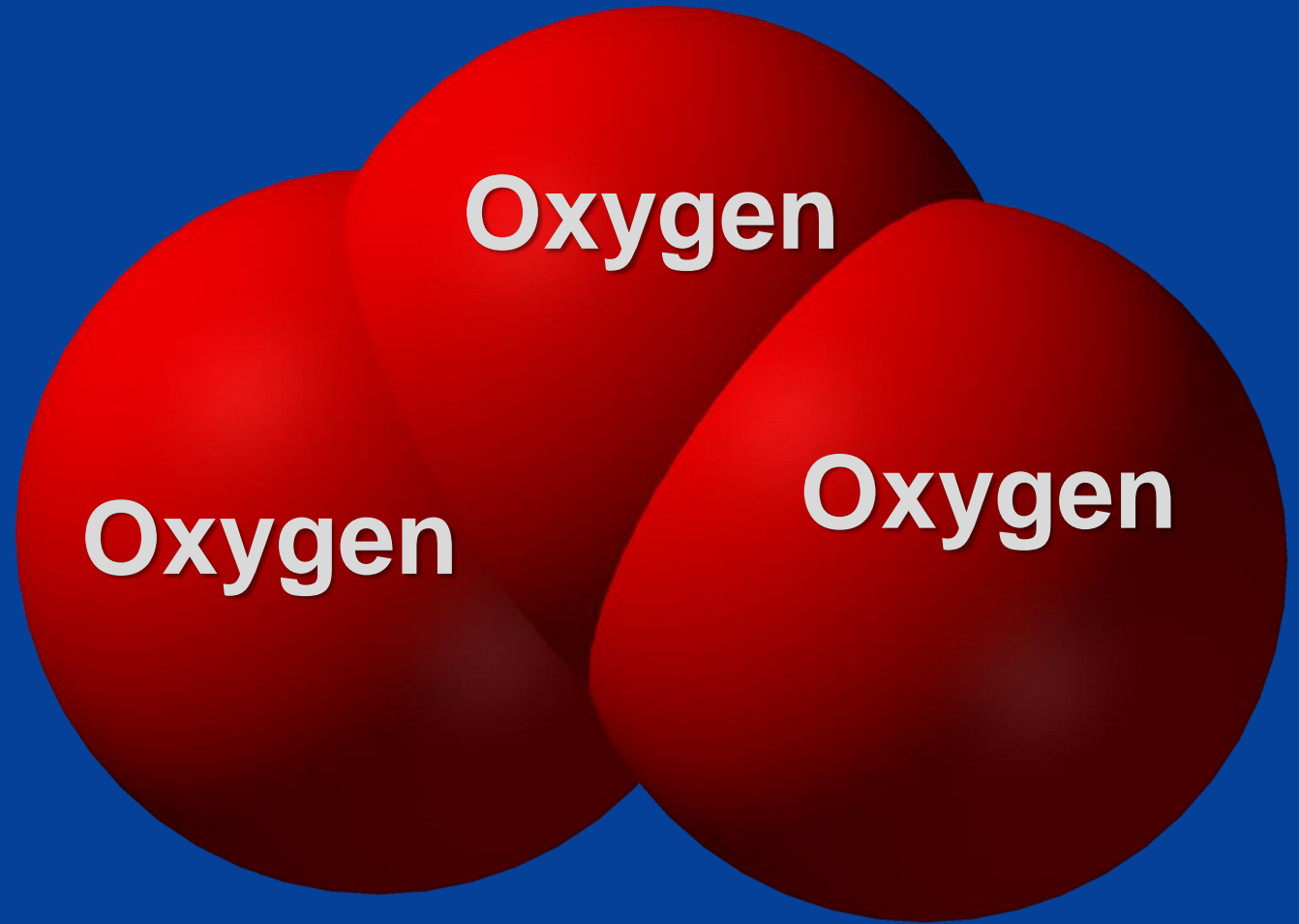
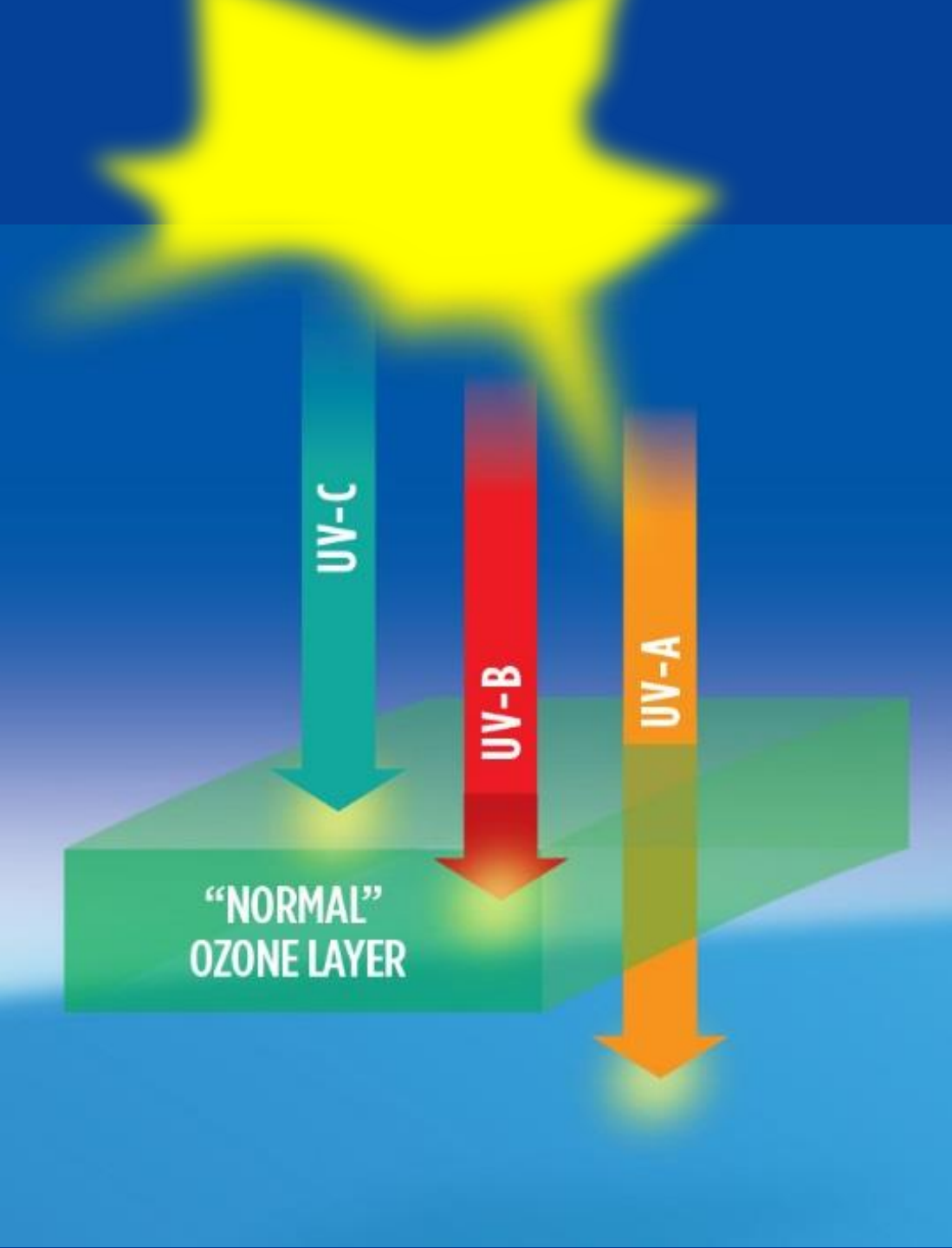
Chlorine from CFCs

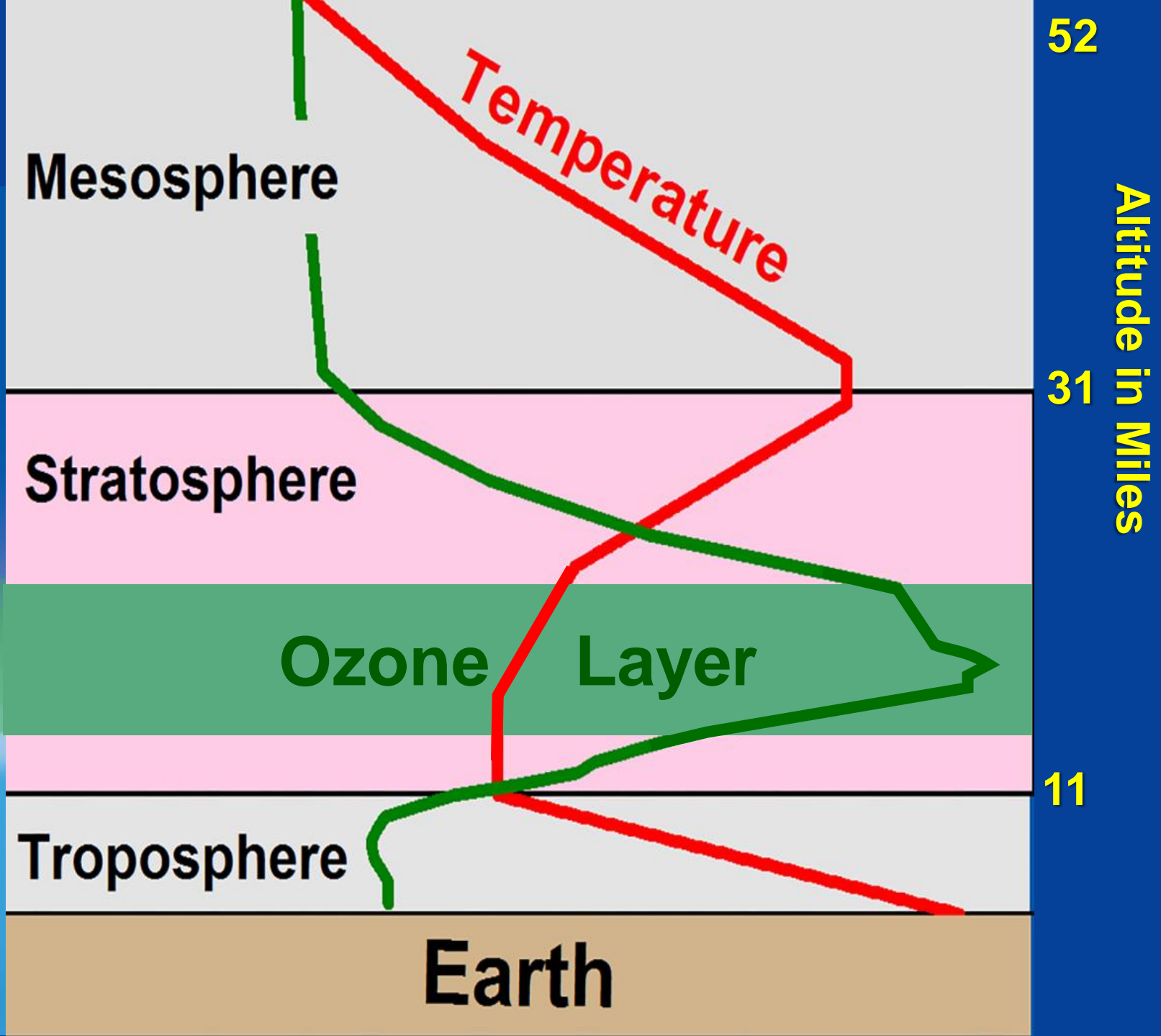
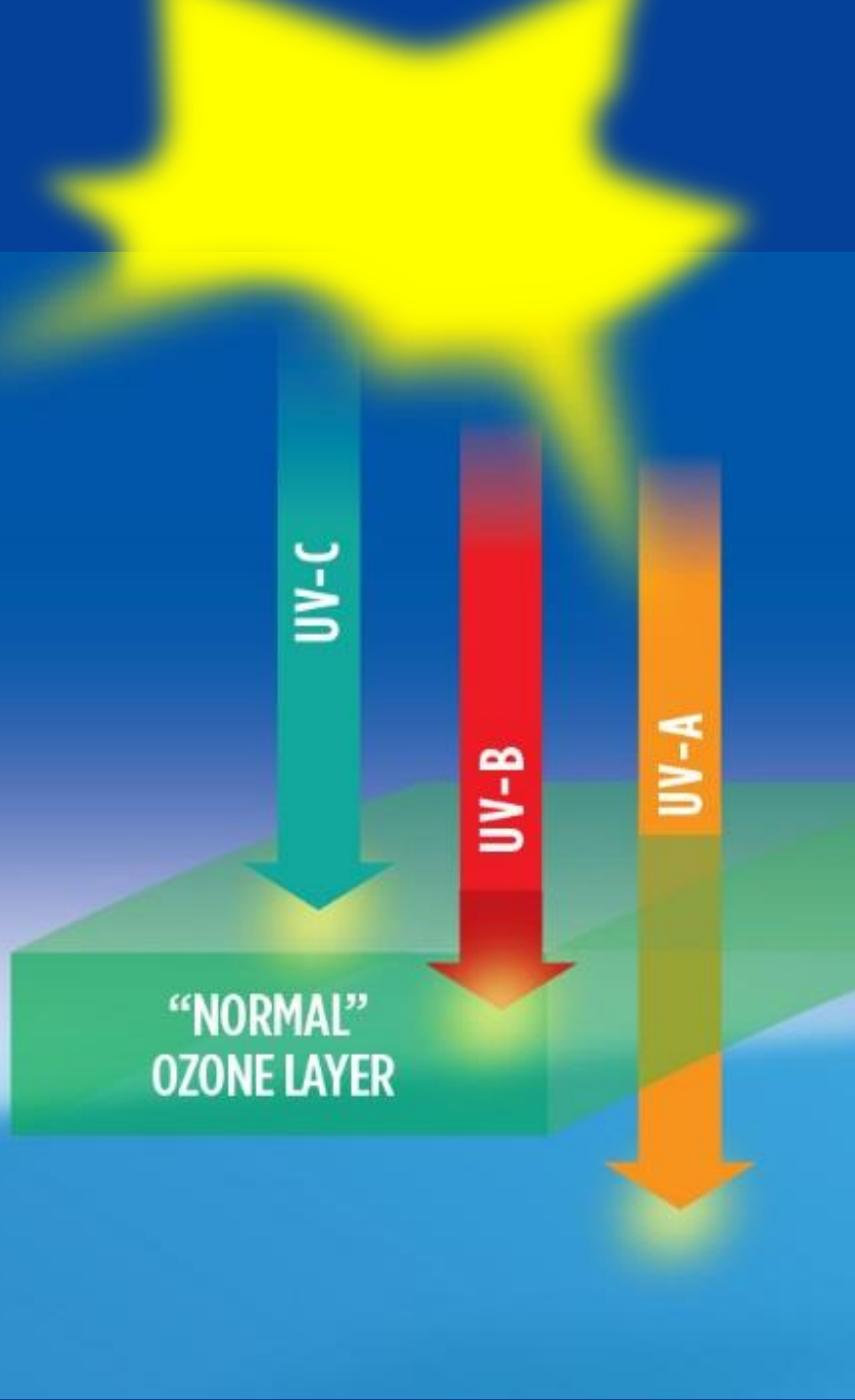
Pinatubo

Eyjafjallajökull

1925 1935 1945 1955 1965 1975 1985 1995 2005 2015

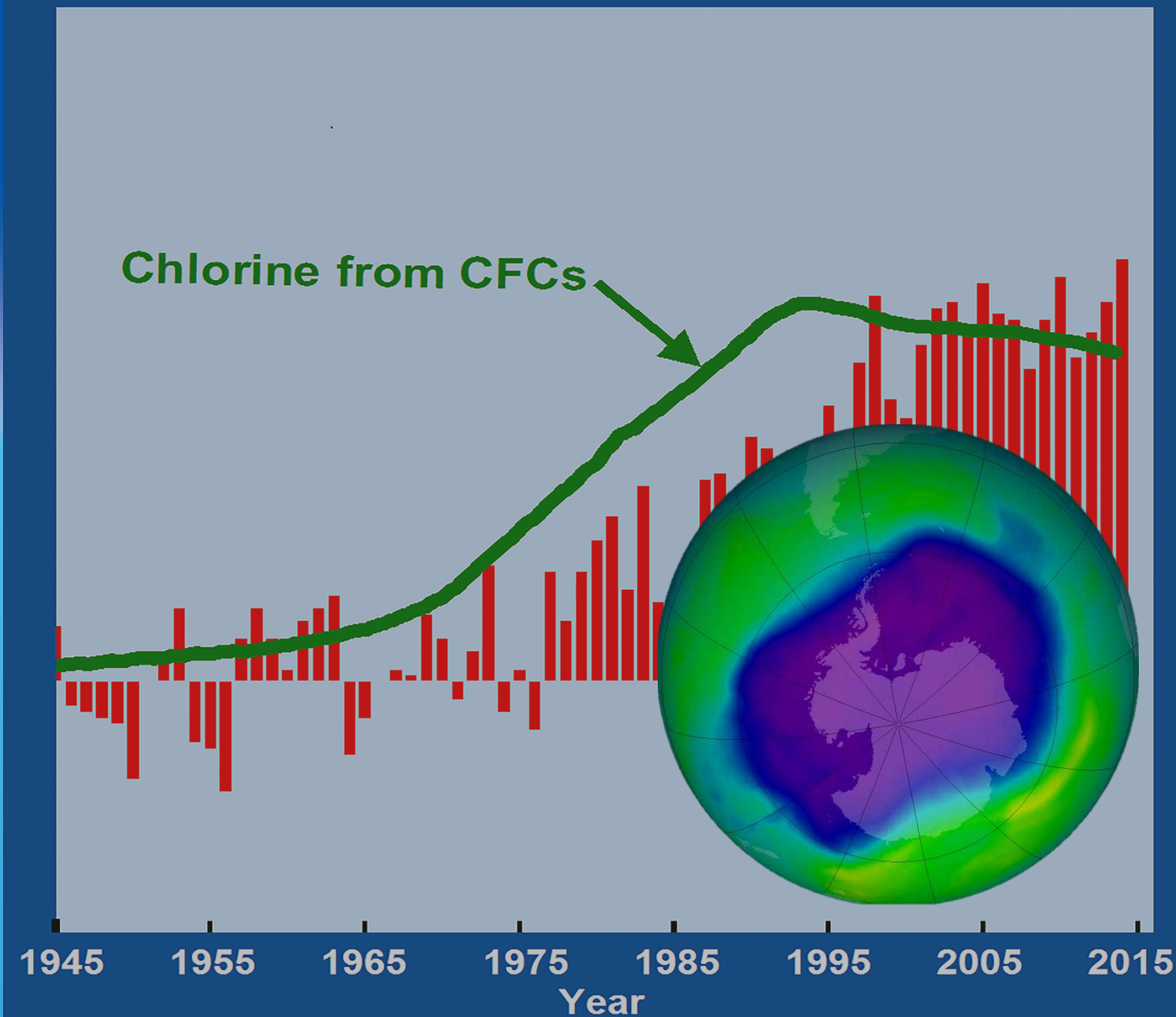
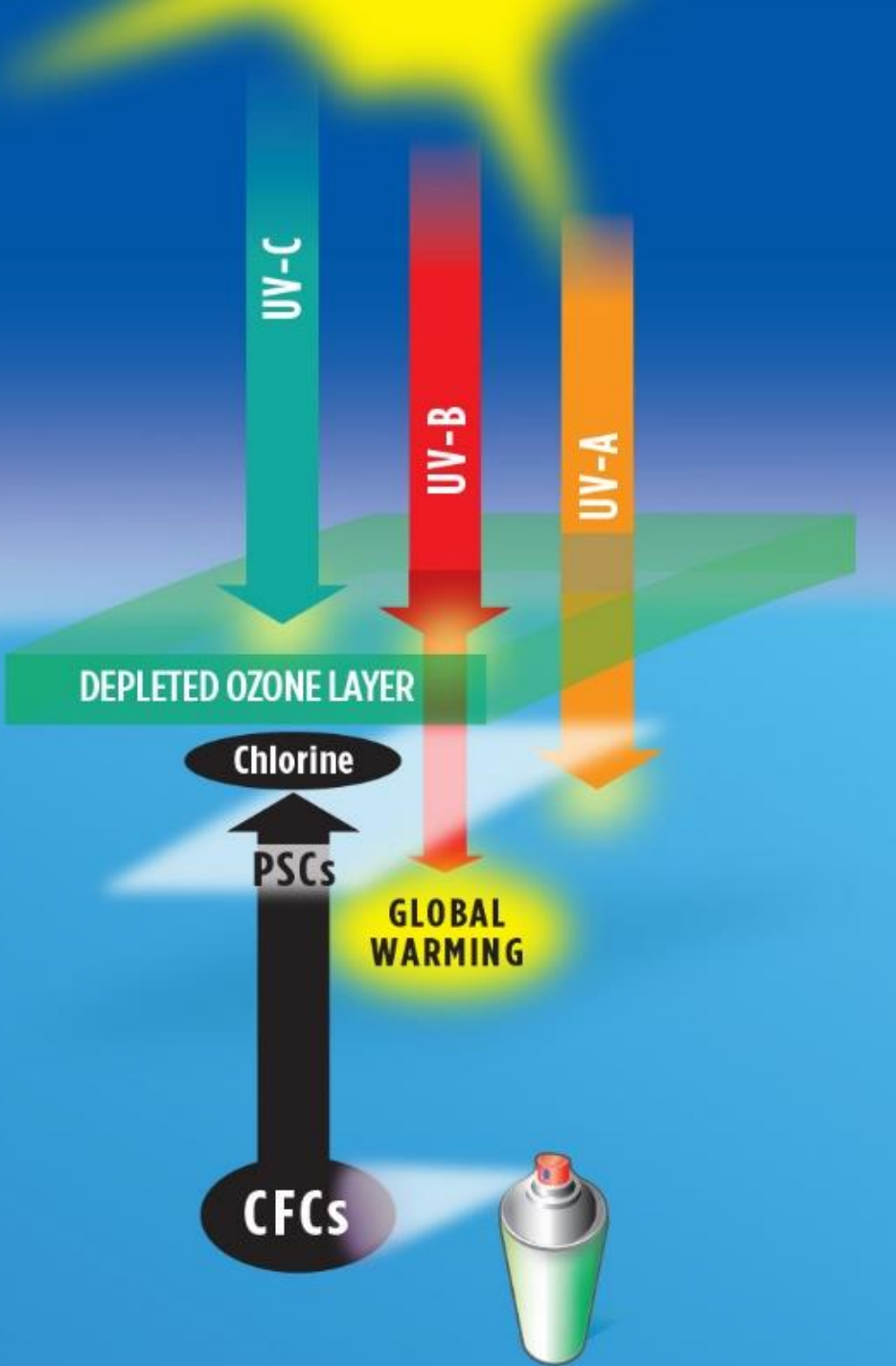


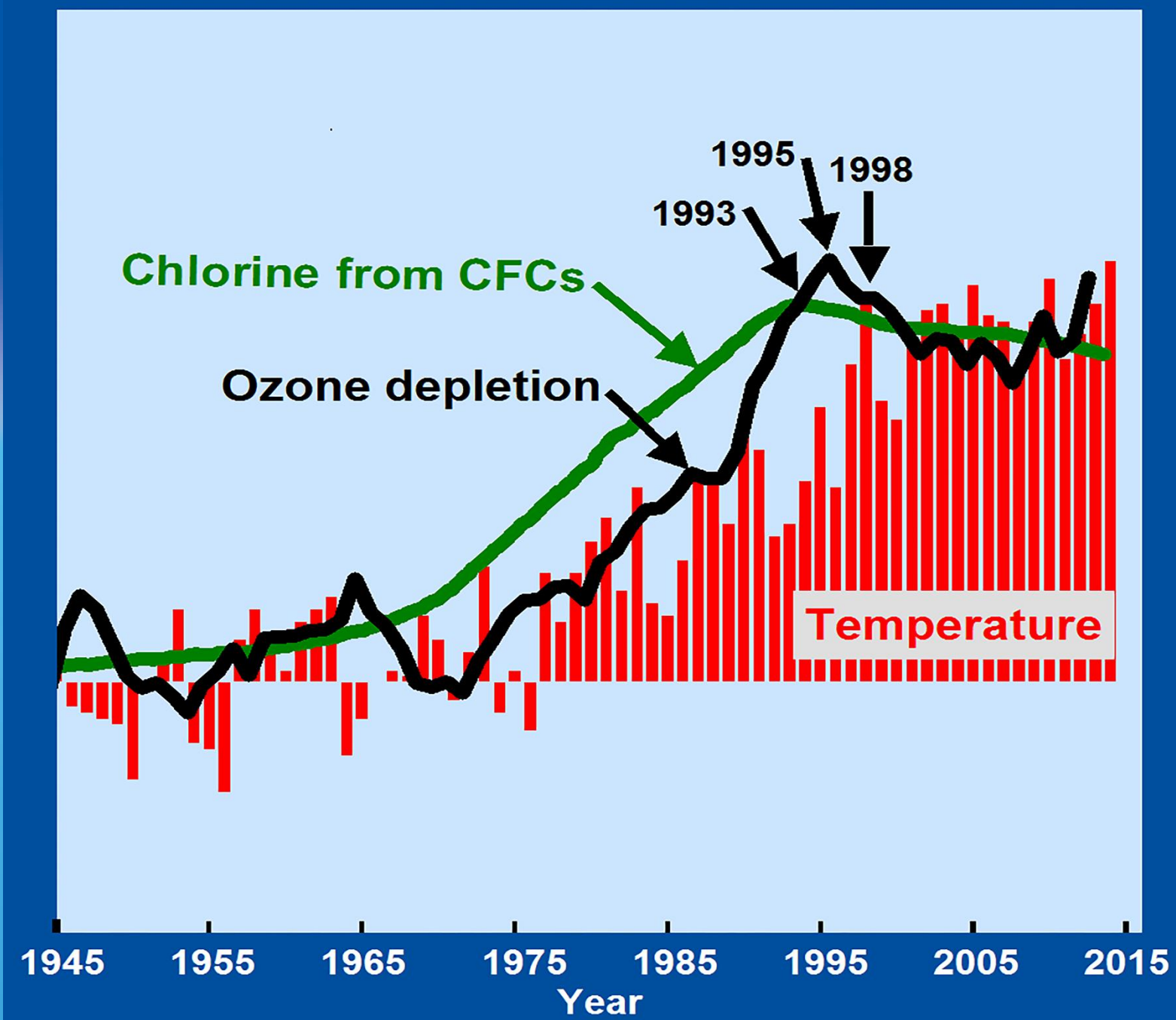
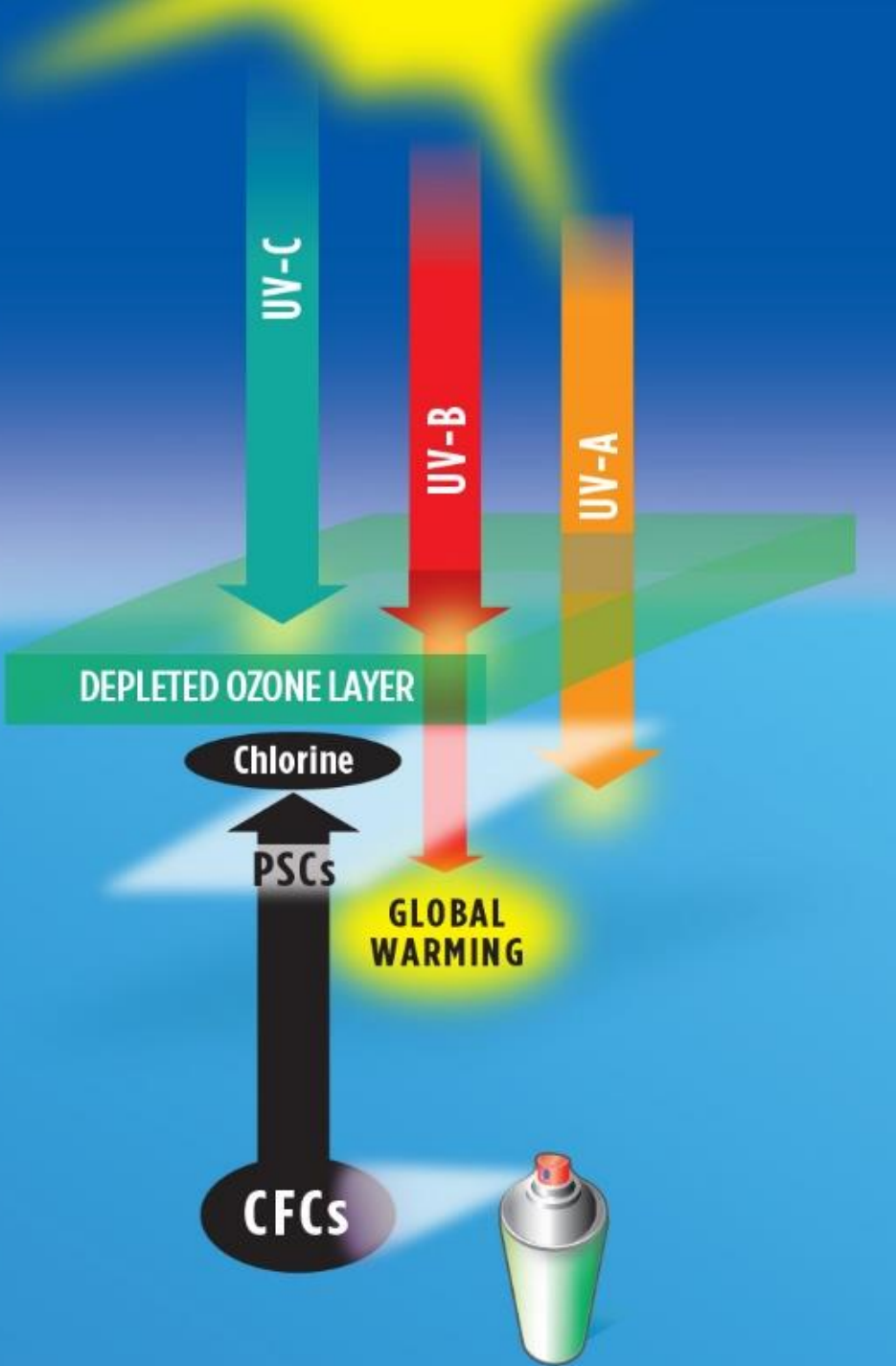




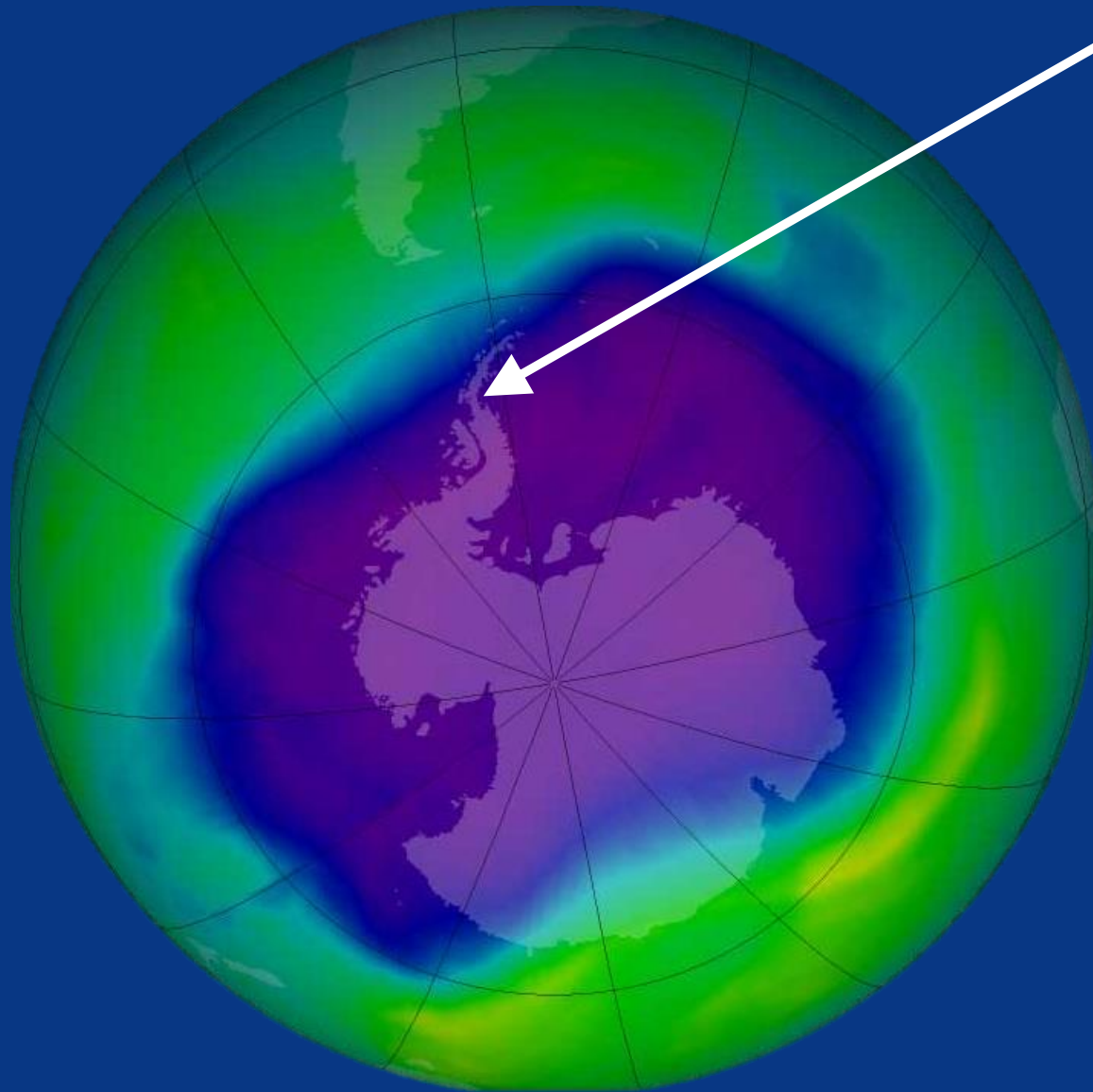
CFCs





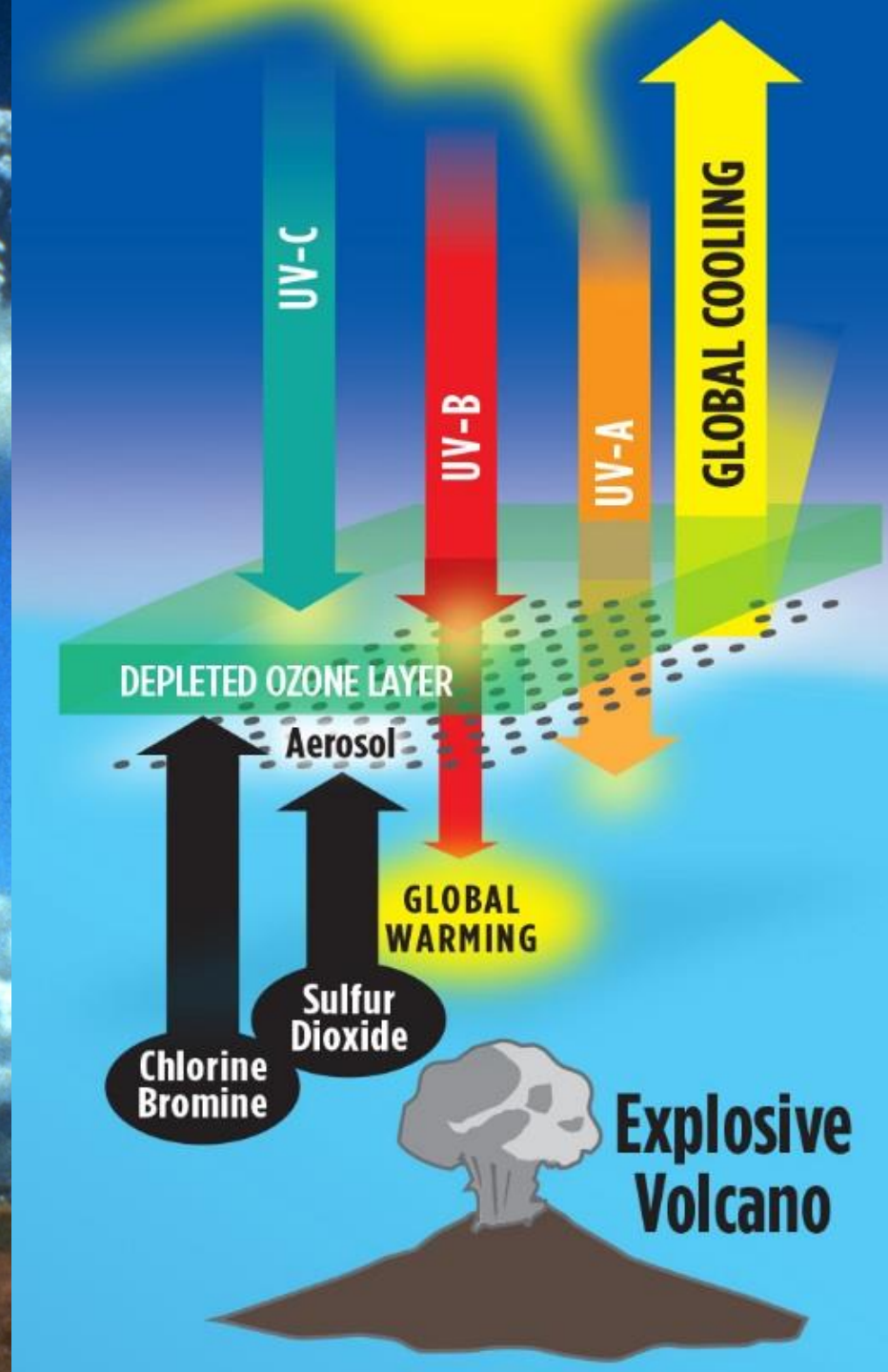


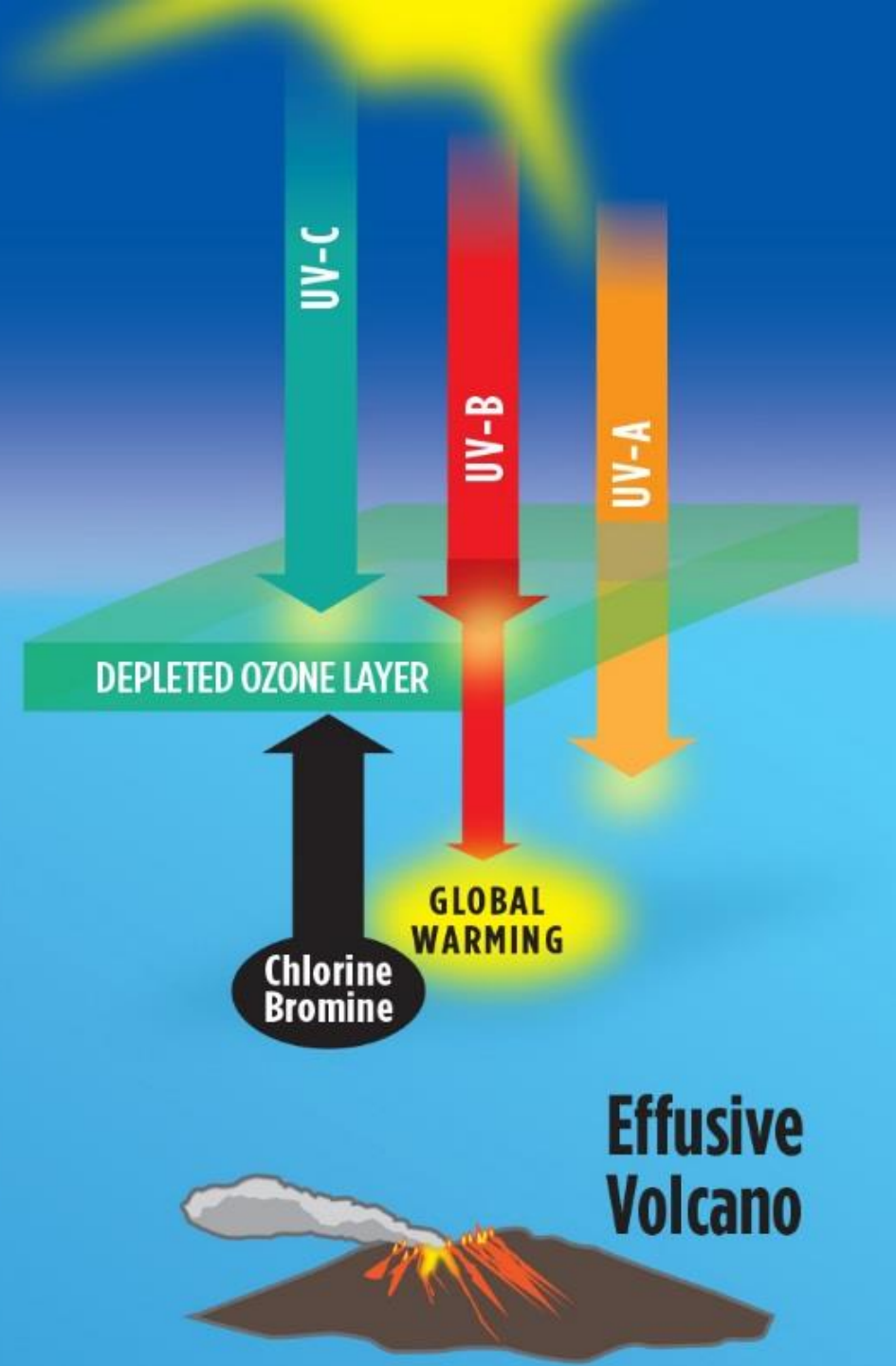
Antarctic Peninsula



Antarctic Ozone Hole
September 24, 2006

NASA





Pinatubo, 1991



Lasting Hours
Explosive → Cooling

Bárðarbunga, 2014-2015



Lasting > Months
Effusive → Warming