**Australia floods:**

The flooding that's inundated much of south and central Queensland, Australia, is the worst to hit the country in half a century. It was triggered by unusually heavy monsoon rains just before Christmas and has been fed by much higher-than-normal rainfall since. Here are some other facts and figures from the floods:

**1,000,000:** The area in square kilometres (approximately) affected by the flooding. That's larger than France and Germany combined and 10 per cent larger than British Columbia.

**200,000:** The number of people affected by the floods.

**10 million:** The number in tons of the country's wheat crop that has been downgraded to less than milling quality because of rain damage. That's equal to half the country's wheat crop.

**343:** The number of millimetres of rain that hit some areas of Queensland in a 24-hour period ending Jan. 10, 2011.

**150:** The number of millimetres of rain that fell in half an hour near the city of Toowoomba on Monday.

**34:** The number of people killed during a flash flood that followed that deluge of rainfall.

**22:** The number of towns or cities that are either substantially flooded or isolated.

**45:** The percentage increase in the global grain prices because of the flood damage to Australia's wheat crop.

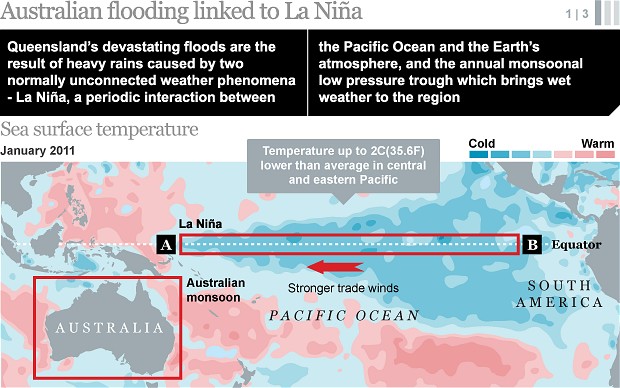
**30:** The percentage by which food prices in Australia could rise, according to investment bank JP Morgan.

**20:** The percentage of all crops in Queensland that have been wiped out by the floods.

**$10 billion:** Estimated damage caused by the floods — so far.

**what caused the flooding?**

**The 3 images below show how La Niña and the seasonal monsoons have combined to produce the flooding which has inundated much of Queensland.**



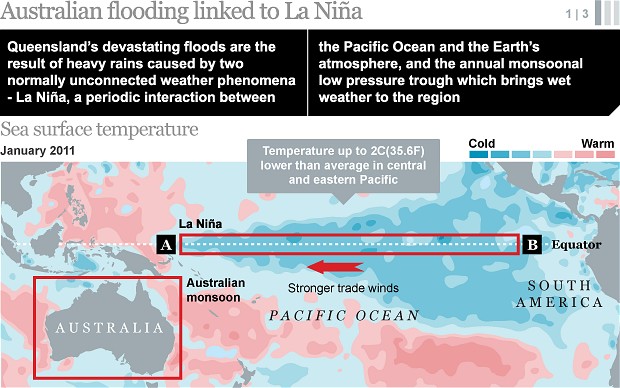
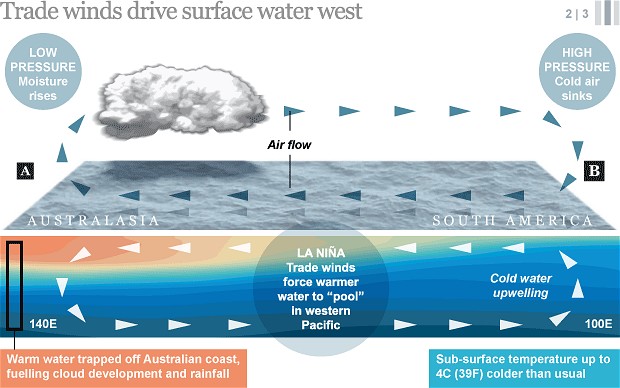


Image 2 of 3

Infographic showing the connection of La Nina to the Queensland floods.



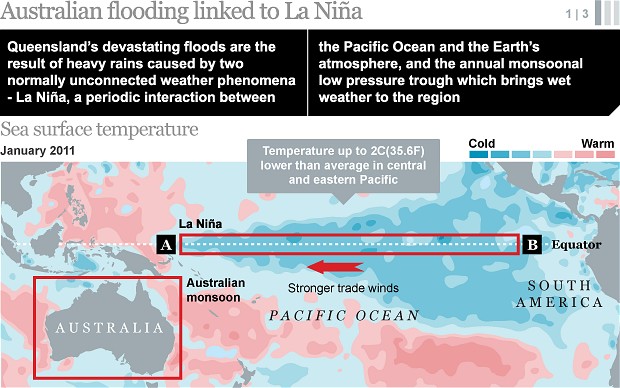


Image 3 of 3

Infographic showing the connection of La Nina to the Queensland floods.

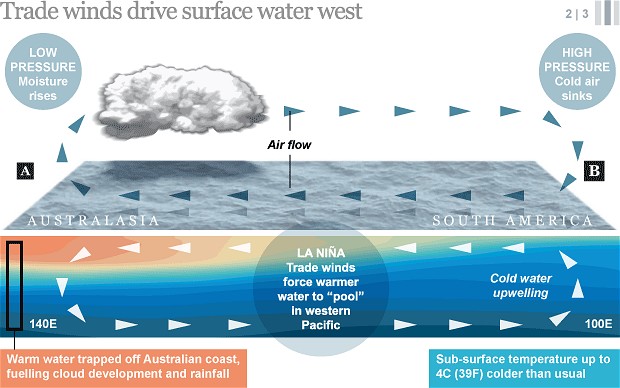


Image 3 of 3

Trade winds drive warmer surface waters west to the coast of Australia, which causes clouds to form and heavy rainfall.

