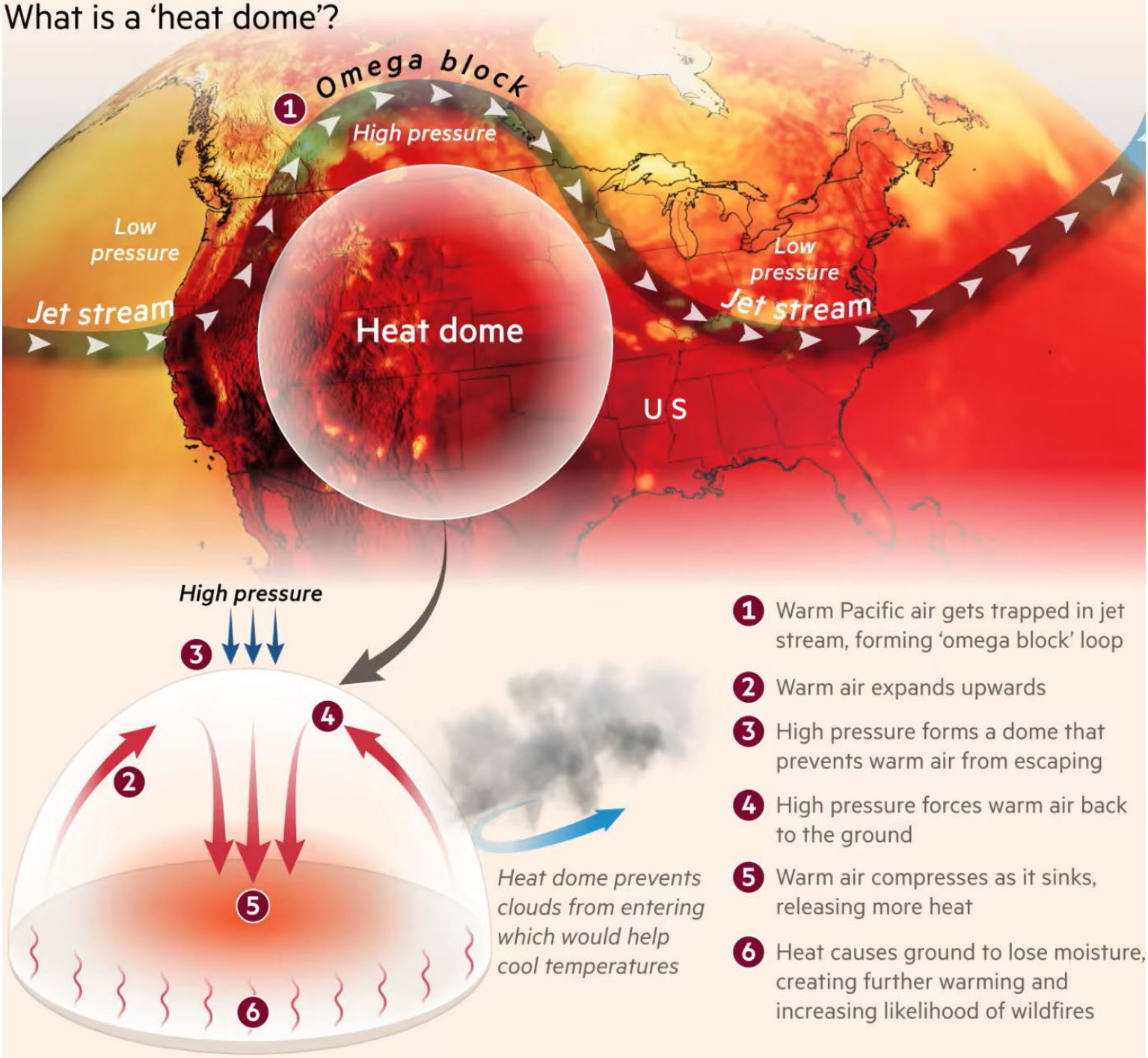
What is a 'heat dome'?



1. Warm Pacific air gets trapped in jet stream, forming 'omega block' loop
2. Warm air expands upwards
3. High pressure forms a dome that prevents warm air from escaping
4. High pressure forces warm air back to the ground
5. Warm air compresses as it sinks, releasing more heat
6. Heat causes ground to lose moisture, creating further warming and increasing likelihood of wildfires

Sources: Noaa; FT research Visual journalism: Steven Bernard

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