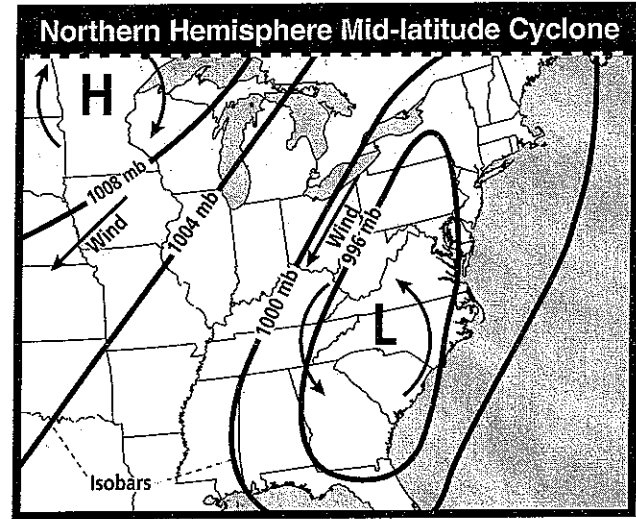
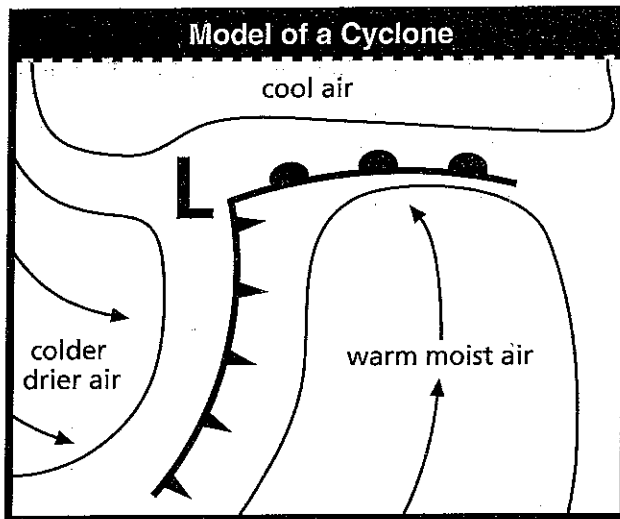


## CHAPTER 3 REINFORCING SKILLS ACTIVITY

### Reading a Diagram

A diagram is a graphic representation of a process or event. Diagrams illustrate placement, movement, change, cycles, or relationships through drawings and symbols. It is important to read and understand titles, labels, and symbols on a diagram. These will help you understand what the diagram is illustrating.

The following diagrams show the formation and movement of midlatitude cyclones, or areas of low pressure that occur between 30°N and 60°N or 30°S and 60°S. In the United States, midlatitude cyclones cause most storms, usually with heavy rain or snow, especially during the winter.



**Key:** **mb** – millibar: a unit of measure for atmospheric pressure, or the weight of air pressing on the Earth's surface  
 → direction of wind

**H** – high-pressure area  
**L** – low-pressure area  
 — isobar: line connecting points of equal atmospheric pressure

### Practicing the Skill

**DIRECTIONS:** Use the diagrams to answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Do the winds of a cyclone spin clockwise or counterclockwise?
2. What kind of air meets warm, moist air to start a cyclone spinning?
3. What might the curved line with spikes represent?
4. Around what kind of area do cyclone winds begin to spin?
5. What does the higher millibar measurement in a high-pressure area mean?
6. Does atmospheric pressure increase or decrease toward the center of a low-pressure area?
7. According to the diagram on the right, what part of the United States is likely to experience storms?