

Ocean Currents

Most of the water in oceans is at the equator where most of the sun's radiation hits.

The energy absorbed by the water gets spread around the world by ocean currents.

The warm ocean currents act like conveyor belts to move water from warm areas to cooler ones.

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What causes ocean currents?

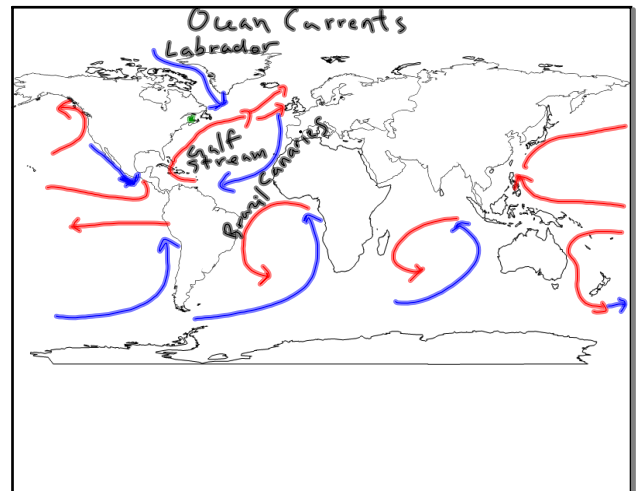
- convection: warm water, in general, travels from the equator to the poles and cold water travels in the opposite direction.
- prevailing winds
- Coriolis effect (Earth spinning)
- amount of salt in the water

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Effects of ocean currents

- The Gulf Stream warms inland, Ireland and the U.K.
- The western Pacific is a warm current that causes large amounts of precipitation (Vancouver).
- ocean currents are responsible for coastal regions being cooler in summer and warmer in winter compared to inland.

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World - outline