

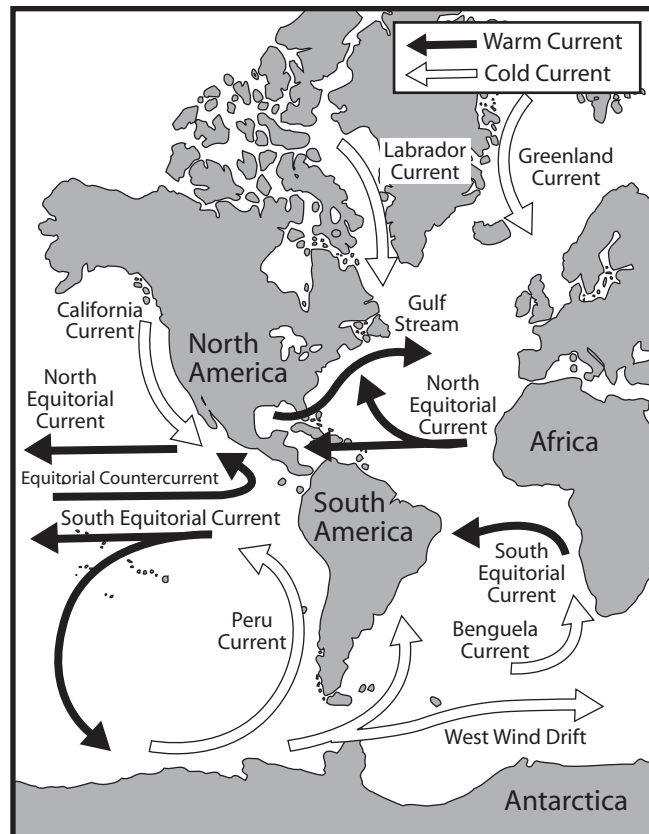
Ocean Currents

Read the passage and then answer the questions below.

Ocean currents move like rivers. They flow through the ocean in different directions. Currents are caused by the wind, earthquakes, and gravity. Some currents are warm. Some currents are cold.

Ocean currents can affect the weather on land. Warm currents, like the Gulf Stream, can bring warm air, while cold currents bring cool air.

Currents help shape beaches and coastlines. But currents also may help cause strong weather conditions, such as hurricanes and typhoons.



This map shows some of the ocean currents near North America and South America.

1. How do you think the North Equatorial and South Equatorial currents got their names? _____

2. What warm current flows along the east coast of the United States? _____

3. How do warm currents affect the weather? _____

4. What causes ocean currents? _____

5. What currents do you think affect the United States' weather the most? Why? _____

6. What happens at the end of most cold currents? _____

ANSWER KEY

Answers may vary.

1. The North Equatorial Current is found north of the equator and the South Equatorial Current is south of the equator.
2. the Gulf Stream
3. They bring warm air.
4. the wind, earthquakes, and gravity
5. the Gulf Stream and the California Current because they run closest to the United States
6. They turn into warm currents.