

OCEAN CURRENTS

Scientists believe that ocean surface currents are caused by winds which prevail in that region. Below are descriptions of some of the major ocean currents; use this information to label the currents on the map drawn on page 5. Use a globe or world map if needed.

1. The Gulf Stream Current in the Northern Hemisphere flows north along the eastern coast of the United States in a clockwise direction, bringing warm water along its course.
2. In the Southern Hemisphere the Humbolt Current (Peru Current) travels north bringing cold water along the western coast of South America, traveling in a counterclockwise direction.
3. The Kuroshio Current (Japan Current), which is in the Northern Hemisphere, runs clockwise along the eastern coast of Japan bringing cool waters to the coast of California, where it becomes part of the California Current.
4. The West Wind Drift is a cold current traveling from west to east which circles Antarctica in the Southern Hemisphere.
5. The North Equatorial Current in the Pacific Ocean runs clockwise just above the equator in the Northern Hemisphere; it later joins the Kuroshio Current.
6. The South Equatorial Current in the Southern Hemisphere runs counterclockwise just below the equator.
7. The Equatorial Counter Current runs west to east between the North and South Equatorial Currents.
8. The Brazilian Current in the Southern Hemisphere runs counterclockwise along the coast of South America.
9. Running clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere, the California Current travels along the western coast of the United States.
10. The Benguela Current runs counterclockwise along the west coast of Africa.
11. The Agulhas Current in the Southern Hemisphere travels counterclockwise along the east coast of Africa. It continues southward along the east and west coasts of Madagascar to the tip of Africa.
12. In the Northern Hemisphere the Labrador Current travels south bringing its cold waters to the east coast of Canada. It intermingles and cools the warmer Gulf Stream Current in the North Atlantic.

