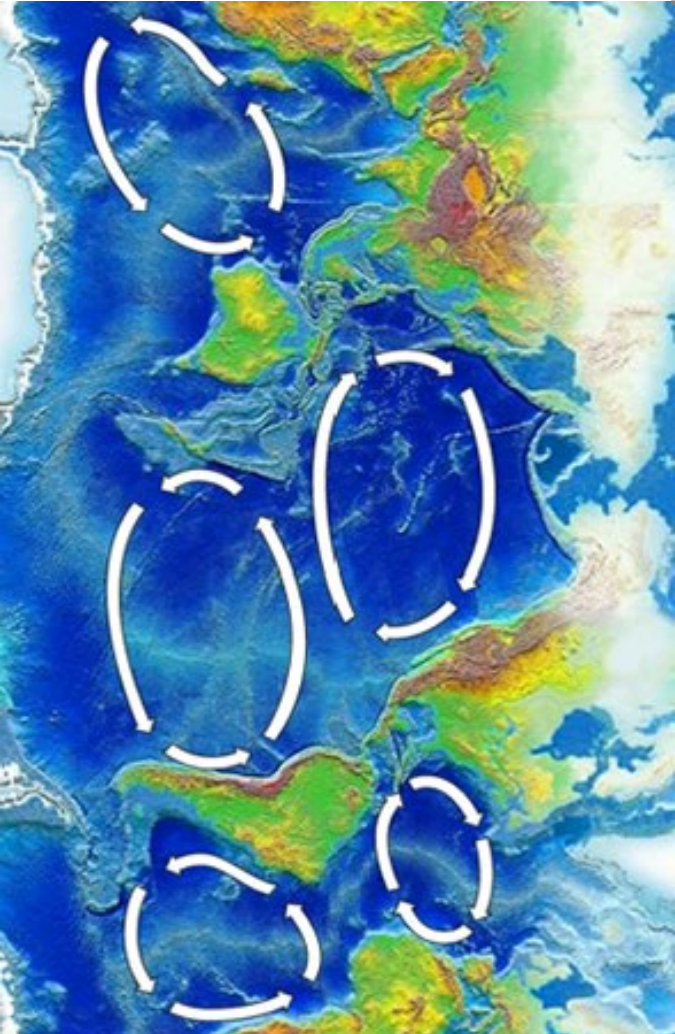
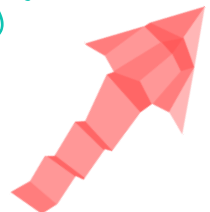


What are ocean currents?



Cut out as one piece. Fill in information and fold in right and left sides, then top map folds down. This part is glued to your page.

How does water move around the world?



Ocean Currents - "Rivers" of Water

Cut out the boxes below and answer the questions on the first page. Then glue these under each question and inside the mini-book. Note: I made these mini pages double wide so your child has more room to write. You will need to fold them in half so they will fit on the tab and along the crease when glued.

Cut out the map to the right showing oxygen utilization and glue to the inside top flat of the mini-book. This would also make for a good compare/contrast activity as to why oxygen is more plentiful in some places than other places

Label the 5 large loops called gyres on the map on the front page. Here they are:

- North Pacific gyre
- South Pacific gyre
- North Atlantic gyre
- South Atlantic gyre
- South Indian gyre

To get you started, here is a little information about ocean currents.

Ocean currents are “rivers” of water that flow on, or near the surface of the ocean or deep underwater. They are caused by the wind, the spin of the Earth and differences in the density of the water. Ocean currents can be warm or cold, depending on where they come from.

Currents in the top 1,500 feet of the ocean are called surface currents. They travel about 6 miles a day and are driven mainly by the wind. Because of Earth’s spin, the world’s winds and surface currents veer sideways. This is called the Coriolis effect. The winds, along with the shapes of the continents, make surface currents flow in five large loops called gyres.

