

# Ocean currents

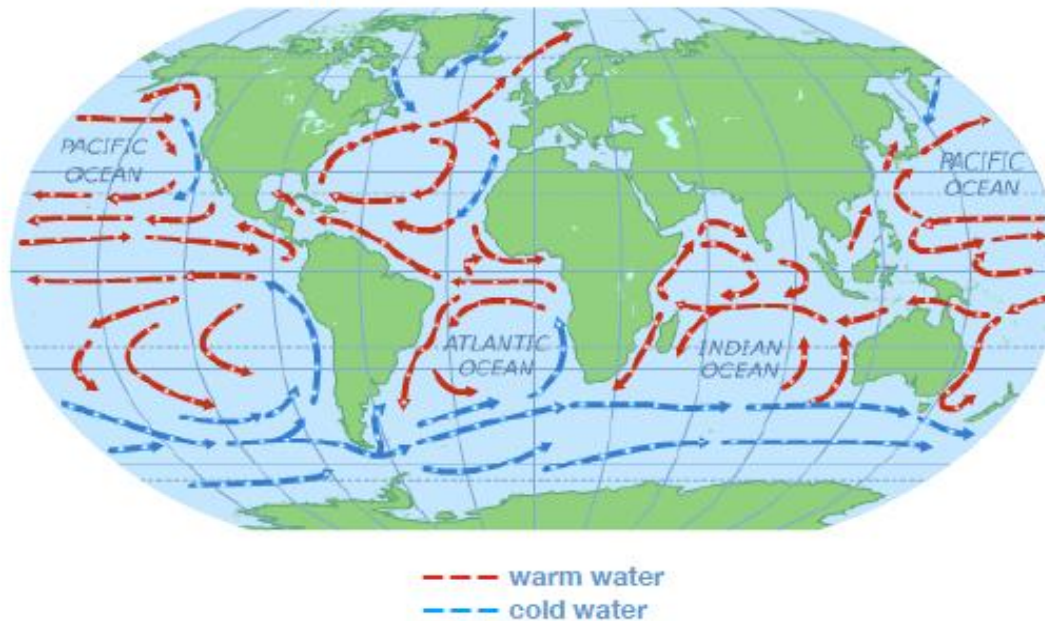


Quick summary



An ocean current is a continuous movement of ocean water from one place to another. Ocean currents are created by wind, water temperature, salt content and the gravity of the moon. The currents are called gyres and can flow for thousands of miles. One major example of an ocean current is the Gulf Stream in the Atlantic Ocean. Gyres travel clockwise in the northern hemisphere and anticlockwise in the southern hemisphere. Ocean currents affect weather patterns around the world: they transport warm water to colder areas and cold water to warmer ones. Plastic pollution is also transported by ocean currents.

The main ocean currents of the world



Physical processes



Human features

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a big area of rubbish in the middle of the northern Pacific Ocean. It is caught in the water currents. It formed because the gyres are circular, which traps rubbish, like floating pieces of plastic.



Vocabulary

**continuous:** happening all of the time without a break

**gyres:** circular movements

**pollution:** a poisonous or dirty substance

**garbage:** American word for rubbish