



Map of major ocean surface currents



Inquiry

Charts and Tables

Charts and tables organize lots of information in a small amount of space. They can be useful in interpreting information because they allow you to focus on the most important points.

- a) Make a table that shows direction of the flow of the current (towards the Equator, away from the Equator, along the Equator, or along polar latitudes), source location (does the current flow from the pole or from the Equator) and the water temperature (warm or cold) for the Kuroshio, Peru, Benguela, Gulf Stream, West Wind Drift, and South Equatorial currents shown on the map.
2. Study the map and your table. Discuss the following questions with your group. Record your answers.
 - a) In general, do warm or cold currents flow away from the Equator?
 - b) Do warm or cold currents flow towards the Equator?
 - c) What is the general relationship between the source of a current and the temperature of the water in the current?
 - d) Is this relationship always true? Explain your answer using evidence.