

Ocean currents

Ocean currents are large amounts of ocean water which move in a certain consistent direction.

There are two types: surface currents and deep currents.

Surface currents are caused by:

Wind

Earth's spin

Shape of the continents

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Coriolis effect
2. Pacific garbage patch
3. Complexity

Deep currents are caused by:

Water temperature

Water salinity

Density current: deep water current caused by difference in density

Thermocline: layer between surface water and deep water where temperature changes the most

Upwelling: Movement of deep ocean water to the surface

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Lake turnover

2. Effect of upwelling

QUESTIONS

1. What are the two type of ocean currents?
2. What effect does the Coriolis effect have on the currents in the Northern hemisphere?
3. Why is the Pacific Garbage Patch located where it is?
4. What causes deep ocean currents?