

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Ask & Answer Questions

Read the short story and answer each question.



## Ocean Currents: The Rivers in the Sea

The ocean may look calm from the shore, but beneath the surface, water is constantly moving. These movements are called ocean currents. Some currents are caused by wind blowing across the surface. Others are caused by differences in water temperature and salt levels.

There are two main types of currents: surface currents and deep ocean currents. Surface currents move the top layers of the ocean and are often shaped by wind and Earth's rotation. One of the most famous surface currents is the Gulf Stream. It carries warm water from the Gulf of Mexico all the way across the Atlantic Ocean.

Deep ocean currents are slower, but they move huge amounts of water. They are driven by cold, salty water sinking and warm water rising. Together, all of the ocean's currents work like a giant conveyor belt, moving heat and nutrients around the world.

Ocean currents are important. They help regulate Earth's climate, move animals to new places, and carry food to tiny ocean creatures. Without ocean currents, the Earth would be a very different place.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Ocean Currents: The Rivers in the Sea

1. What is the main reason deep ocean currents move?

- A. They are caused by differences in temperature and saltiness.
- B. They are pushed by boats.
- C. They are pulled by the moon.
- D. They are created by volcanoes.

2. What do ocean currents help do?

- A. They move heat, animals, and nutrients around the world.
- B. They freeze the surface of the ocean.
- C. They make the water stop moving.
- D. They create mountains underwater.

3. Fill in the blank:

The **Gulf Stream** is a famous \_\_\_\_\_ current that moves warm water across the ocean.

4. What are two different causes of ocean currents explained in the text?

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5. Use evidence from the passage to explain how ocean currents help both animals and people.

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** N

**Lexile Level:** 530L-680L

**Grade Level:** 3rd Grade, Beginning of the Year

**Genre:** Informational / Earth Science

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## Introducing the Text

*"Today we'll read an informational science text about ocean currents—powerful rivers in the sea. As we read, we'll work on asking and answering questions using facts and details from the passage."*

**Vocabulary:** current, surface, deep, nutrients, regulate

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you know about how the ocean moves?
  2. Have you heard of the Gulf Stream or other ocean currents before?
  3. Why do you think ocean currents matter?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What are the two types of ocean currents described?
  2. How does the Gulf Stream help move warm water?
  3. What makes deep ocean currents different from surface ones?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What is one way ocean currents help living things?
  2. What evidence in the text explains why Earth would be different without currents?
  3. Why do scientists study how ocean water moves?
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## Activity Idea

Have students create a labeled diagram of the ocean's "conveyor belt" system. Using arrows and color-coding, they can show how warm surface water moves and how cold, salty water sinks. Students should include labels and a short written summary of what each part of the current does.

