

# REEF RELIEF

## Ocean Current Activity

### We Will Need:

- A square or rectangular dish/tub: clear or white so the colors will be visible.
- Food Coloring: red and blue will work best to demonstrate but other color combinations will work fine too.
- Boiling water
- Ice water
- Colored pencils: with colors similar to the watercolors to draw what happened.

### Directions:

1. Fill the clear dish part way with cold water. Any dish clear or white baking dish will work.
2. Add a few drops of blue food coloring and a cup of ice, letting it sit for a few minutes. (we want really cold water).
3. While the ice melts, boil 4 cups of water adding red food coloring.
4. Slowly pour the boiling water into one corner of the baking dish filled with cold water.
5. Record on the sheet below what you observed to happen.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

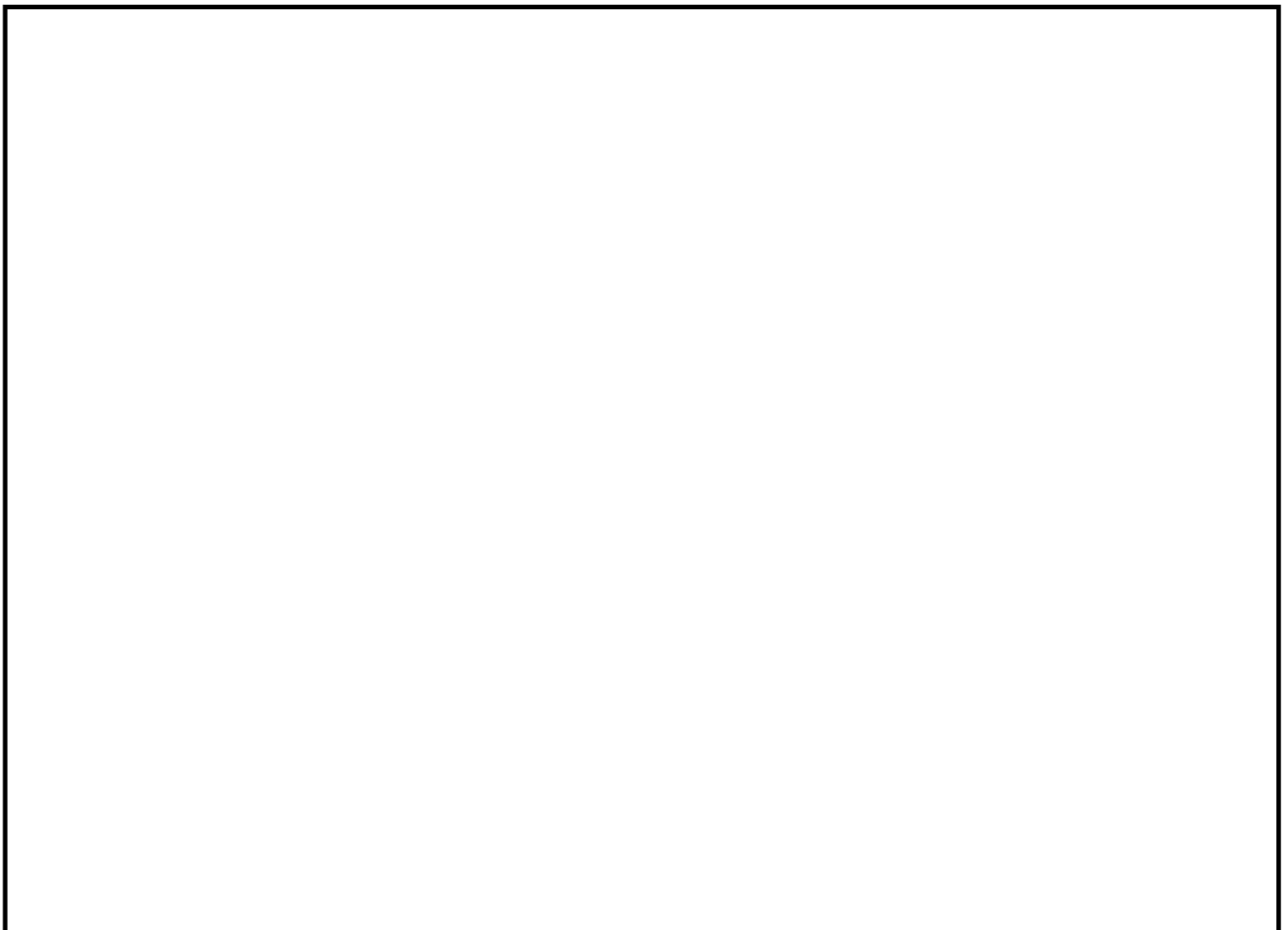
What is an ocean current?

\_\_\_\_\_.

What color is your cold water: \_\_\_\_\_.

What color is your hot water: \_\_\_\_\_.

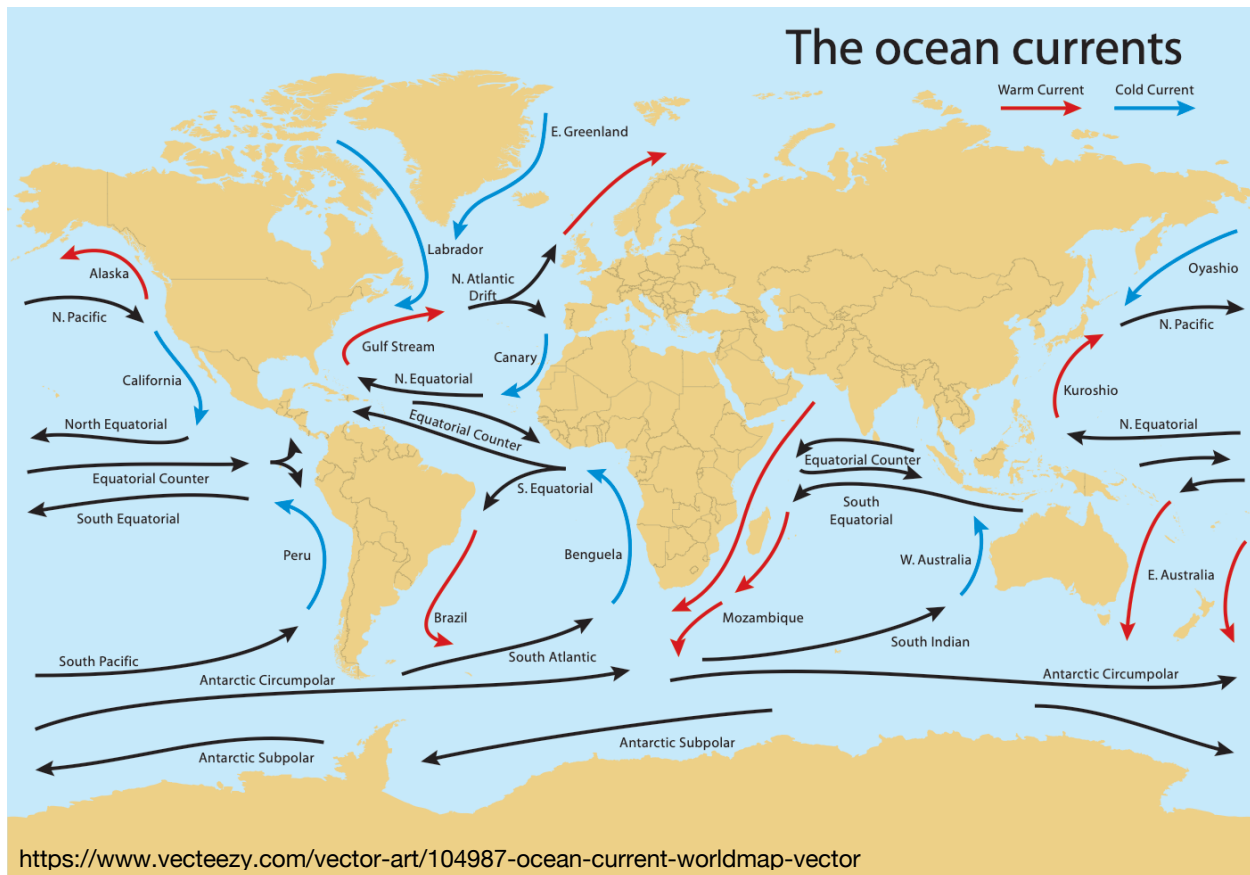
The box below represents your baking dish! Draw using arrows or pictures what happened when the hot water was added to the cold water. Use colored pencils to separate to represent hot and cold.



What are some other factors you think may cause ocean currents?

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**Great Job Completing the activity and worksheet!**

**Ocean currents is the horizontal movement of ocean seawater.**

Surface currents are currents that form on the surface from wind, and are the type of currents make the waves that we see at the beach!

Deep water currents are a different type of ocean current that we cannot see and are shown on the map above. Deep water currents are what we just simulated and are caused by change in temperature of the seawater and other factors. Deep ocean currents are also formed by seawater change in salinity (different amounts of salt), and the gravitational pull from the moon and sun!