

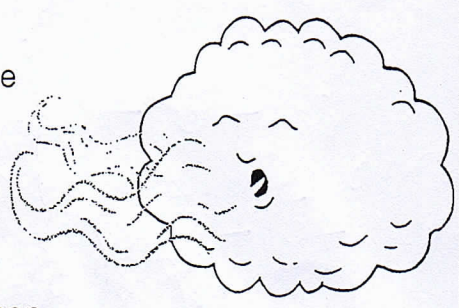
Key

The World's Winds

Learn about the world's winds by following the directions to complete the activity below.

Directions:

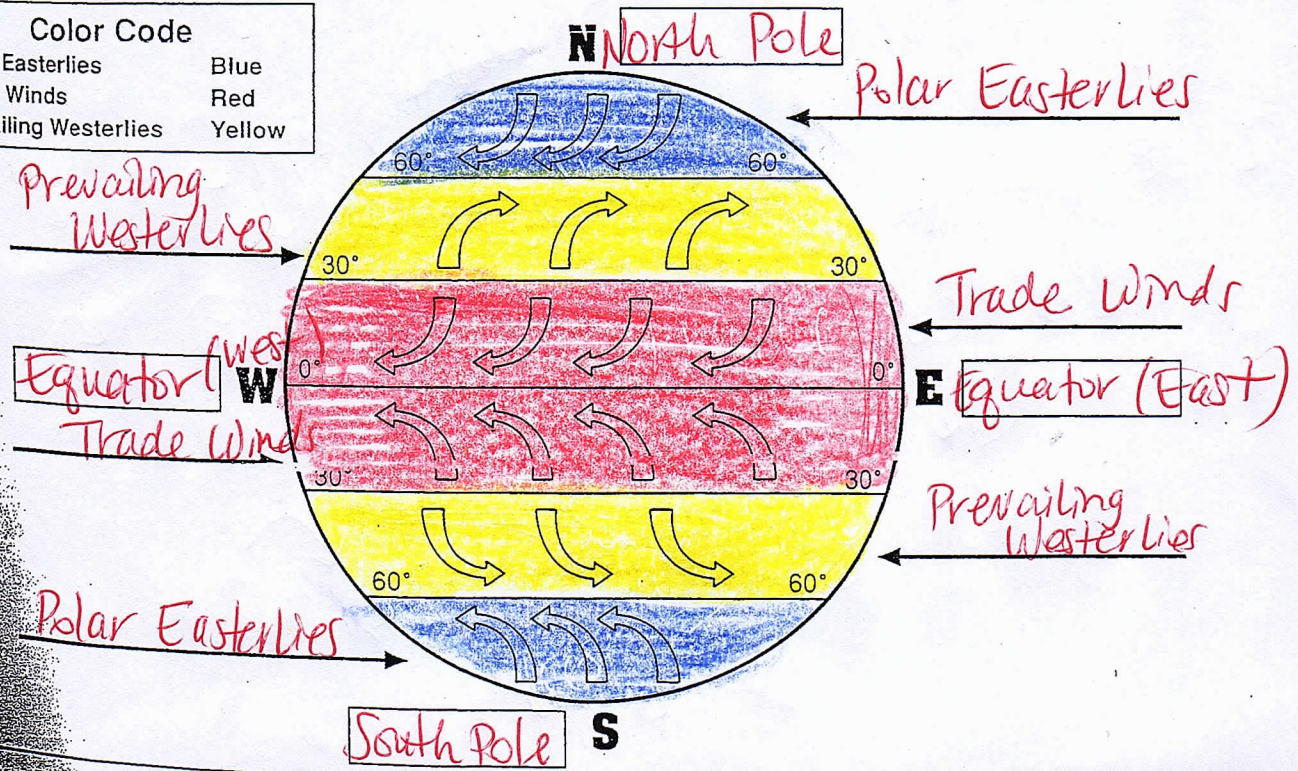
1. Read the paragraphs on how winds circulate on the earth.
2. Use the information in the paragraphs and the color code to color each section of the diagram.
3. Label the equator and the North and South Poles in the boxes. Then label the types of wind on the correct blanks using the following names: *polar easterlies*, *trade winds*, and *prevailing westerlies*.



The air of our planet is always moving. This air movement is called *general circulation*. It is caused by the uneven heating of the earth's atmosphere (as the warm air rises, surface air flows in to replace it). This warming and replacing process produces winds that tend to circle the earth in six wide bands. There are three bands in the Northern Hemisphere and three bands in the Southern Hemisphere. These six bands are called the *prevailing winds*. Because the earth rotates from west to east, the wind bands moving toward the equator seem to bend to the west and the wind bands moving away from the equator seem to bend to the east.

Winds can be named for different reasons, but normally they are named for the direction from which they blow. The two bands of wind that lie between 30° north and 30° south of the equator are called the *trade winds*. (They are called this because sailors once relied on them for sailing their trading ships.) The wind bands north and south of the trade winds (between 30° and 60°) are called the *prevailing westerlies*. The wind bands blowing from the North and South Poles are called *polar easterlies*.

Color Code	
Polar Easterlies	Blue
Trade Winds	Red
Prevailing Westerlies	Yellow



Bonus Box: Research the name of the effect that causes wind moving toward the equator to bend to the west and wind moving away from the equator to bend to the east. Write your answer on the back of this sheet.

Teacher: Provide each student with crayons or colored pencils.