The Power of Water

The water in the ocean on earth is constantly moving! The ocean is an interconnected current or circulation system that is powered by wind, tides, the sun, water density differences and the earth's rotation. This circulation system is called the Great Ocean Conveyor Belt. It is vital in cycling nutrients and oxygen around the world.

Activity

The Ocean conveyor belt shows us that all the oceans are actually connected! Can you find all the five oceans in the word search?

- Southern
- Pacific
- Indian
- Atlantic
- Arctic

(You can also find the seven continents here too! Look for Asia, Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia, South America and North America).

Experiment:

Let's try and simulate the ocean's currents in your own home! All you need is...

- Large baking dish
- Red and blue food coloring
- Kettle
- Tap water
- Toy whales and dolphins
- Ice cubes

Fill your baking dish with water and add blue food coloring, ice cubes and your sea creatures. Allow the water to cool. Boil water in the kettle and add red food coloring. Then slowly pour the hot water with red coloring into the dish and watch the currents appear.

Learn about water density: Is the hot water lighter or heavier than the cold water? Learn about salinity - if you add salt, does this make the water heavier or lighter? Research currents in the northern vs southern hemisphere - do water eddies spin in clockwise or anticlockwise circles?