

Directions: Follow along with the class as we fill out our notes.

## High pressure (H)

- As air masses cool, they become more dense and sink toward the Earth's surface

## Low pressure (L)

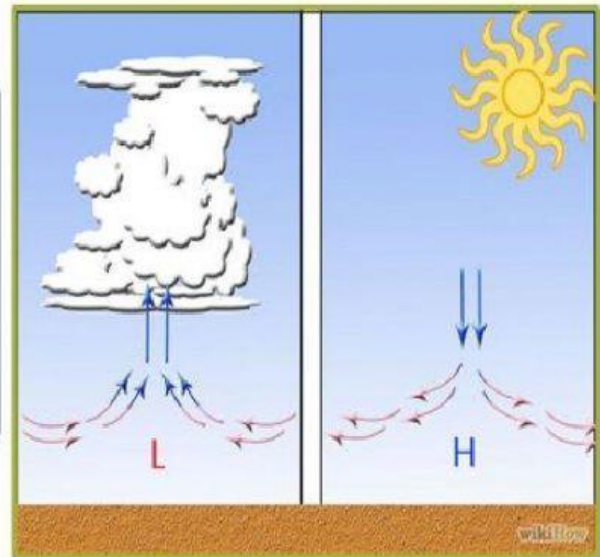
- As air masses warm, they become less dense and rise above the Earth's surface

Using the words "cool" and "warm," fill in the temperature of the arrows:

Red arrow:

Blue arrow:

## Convection Currents



© Kesler Science, LLC



## Think About It

The first component of a convection current is energy. As energy is added to molecules, they increase their motion, spreading further apart. This causes them to be less dense, so they rise above areas that are more dense.

The second component that affects a convection current is gravity. The gravity of our planet pulls objects "down" toward the center of our planet. It pulls on you, your shoes, your hair, and the air around you.

© Kesler Science, LLC

If the Sun heated our atmosphere and the molecules began spreading apart and rising but our planet's gravity was too weak to keep them down, what would happen?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Convection Currents

## How Air Pressure Works



## Wind

- The pressure difference between a high pressure area and its lower pressure surroundings cause a wind to develop
- Flows from higher to lower pressure

Using your own words, describe what is happening in this image.

© Kesler Science, LLC

## Quick Action: INB

### Convection Notes

Complete the organizer to the right by clicking on and dragging the correct statement to complete the first box. You will complete another box after each section in these notes.



Convection currents occurs between warm fluids and cooler fluids. They occur in Earth's mantle, oceans and atmosphere.



The pressure difference between a high pressure area and lower pressure surroundings.



# Convection Currents

What causes wind?

Drag answer here

Choose the diagram that illustrates a sea breeze. In the textbox describe what is happening in the image.

Choose the diagram that illustrates a land breeze. In the textbox describe what is happening in the image.

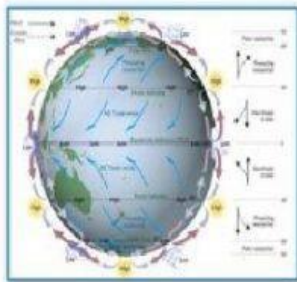
Describe convection currents and where we can find them in the Earth's processes.

© Kesler Science, LLC



# Convection Currents

Earth's atmospheric convection currents cause:



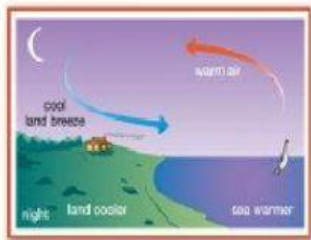
A

- A. Global winds
- B. Local breezes
- C. Cyclones (Hurricane/Typhoon)
- D. Thunderstorms

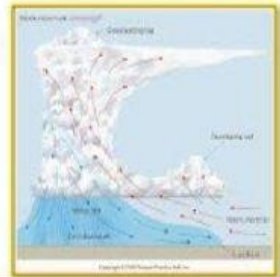


C

B

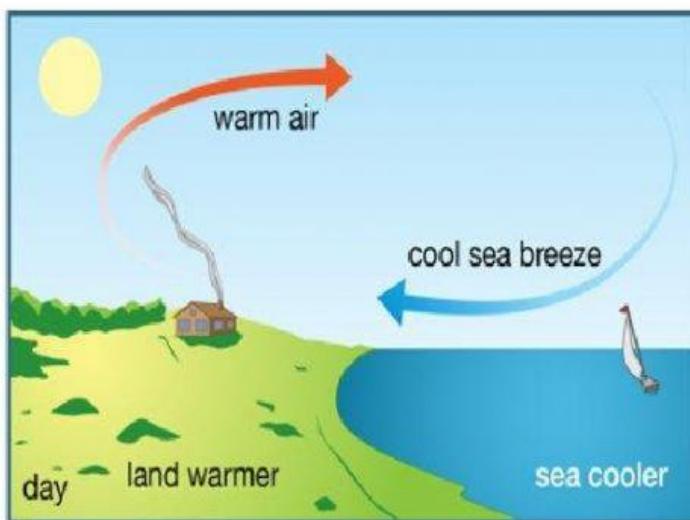


D



© Kesler Science, LLC

## Convection Currents



### Local Breezes

#### Sea breeze

- Gentle wind that flows from the cool air over the water (high pressure) toward the warm air over the land (low pressure)
- During the day solar radiation heats the land more quickly than water

Why is the land warmer than the water during the day?

© Kesler Science, LLC

## Quick Action: INB

### Convection Notes

Complete the organizer to the right by clicking on and dragging the correct diagram to complete the second box. You will complete another box after each section in these notes.

Convection currents occurs between warm fluids and cooler fluids. They occur in Earth's mantle, oceans and atmosphere.



The pressure difference between a high pressure area and lower pressure surroundings.



## Convection Currents

What causes wind?

Choose the diagram that illustrates a sea breeze. In the textbox describe what is happening in the image.

Drag image here

Choose the diagram that illustrates a land breeze. In the textbox describe what is happening in the image.

Describe convection currents and where we can find them in the Earth's processes.

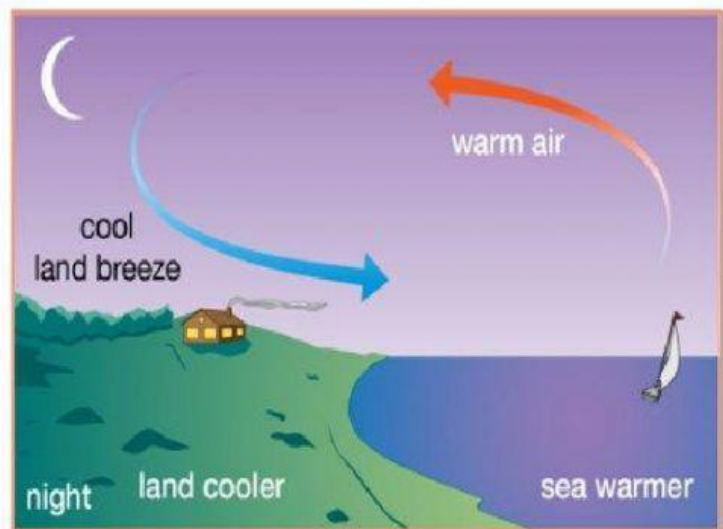
© Kesler Science, LLC

## Land breeze

- Breeze that flows from the cool air above land (high pressure) toward the warmer air above the water (low pressure)
- Caused by land cooling, more quickly than water, in the evening

Why is the land cooler than the water at night?

## Convection Currents

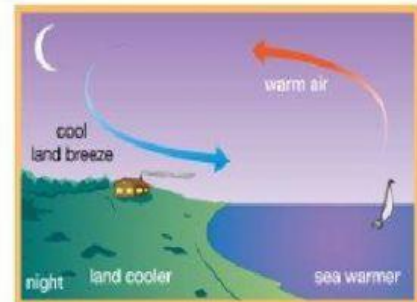
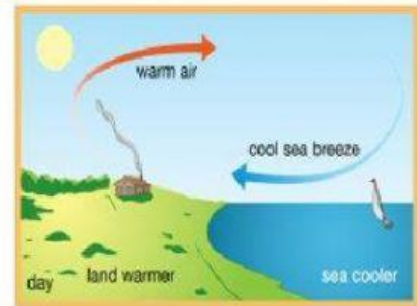


© Kesler Science, LLC



## Think About It

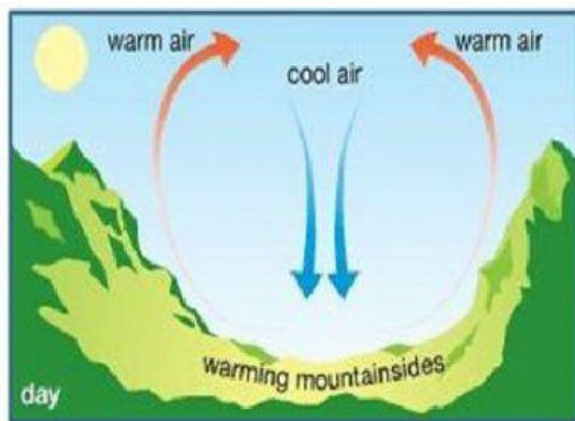
On a hot summer day, you and your friends decide to go on a trip to the beach. As you walk toward the beach, a cool breeze finally hits your face and cools you off for a moment. Is it a sea or land breeze? How do you know?



© Kepler Science, LLC

## Convection Currents

### Valley breeze



- During the day, the surface of the mountain heats the air high up in the atmosphere, quicker than the valley floor heats
- This attracts the air from the valley, creating a breeze that blows from the valley floor (high pressure) up towards the top of the mountain (low pressure)

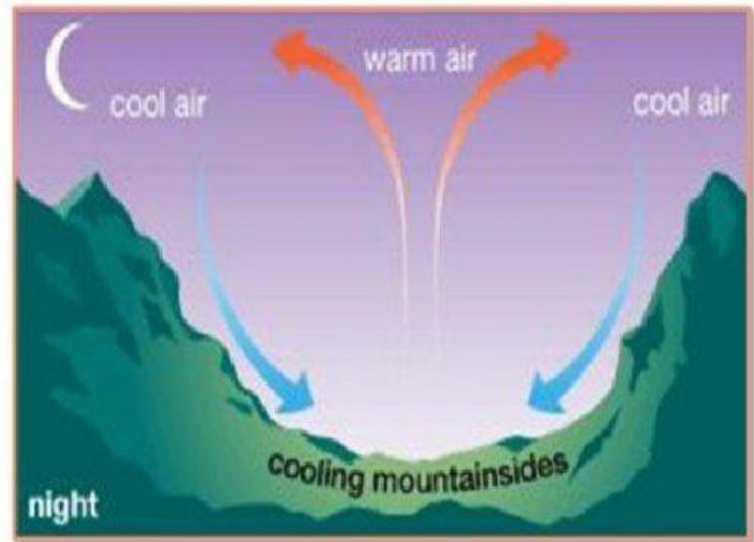
© Kepler Science, LLC



## Mountain breeze

- In the evening, the mountain slopes cool the surrounding air more quickly than the air found lower in the atmosphere
- This causes winds to blow down the mountain (high pressure) towards the valley floor (low pressure)

## Convection Currents



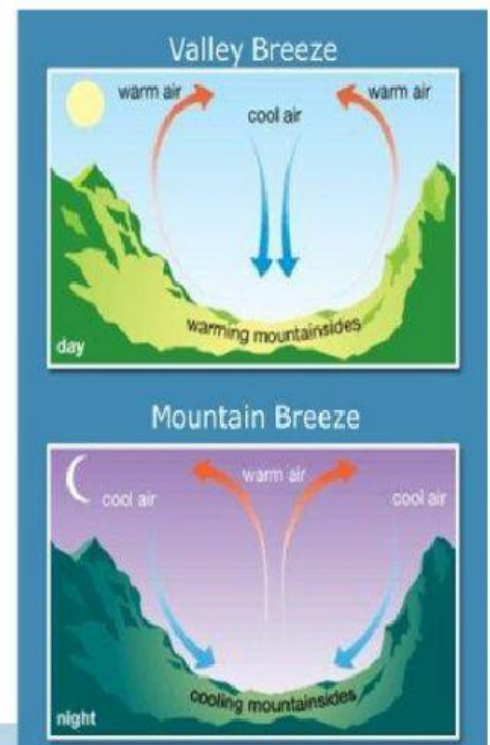
© Kesler Science, LLC

## Convection Currents

Answer the following questions by comparing the breeze mountains cause in the day versus the night.

1. Where is the high pressure air travelling?

1. How do the mountains affect the airflow?



© Kesler Science, LLC

## Quick Action: INB

### Convection Notes

Complete the organizer to the right by clicking on and dragging the correct statement to complete the fourth box.



Convection currents occurs between warm fluids and cooler fluids. They occur in Earth's mantle, oceans and atmosphere.



The pressure difference between a high pressure area and lower pressure surroundings.



## Convection Currents

What causes wind?

Choose the diagram that illustrates a sea breeze. In the textbox describe what is happening in the image.

Choose the diagram that illustrates a land breeze. In the textbox describe what is happening in the image.

Describe convection currents and where we can find them in the Earth's processes.

Drag answer here

© Kosler Science, LLC

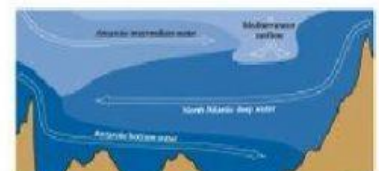
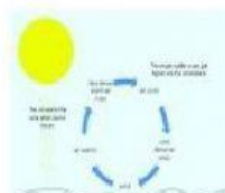
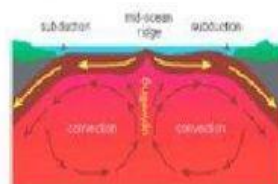
## Think About It

Think about the first four diagrams of convection currents you saw at the beginning. Those diagrams are models that help us understand what we can't see.

If you were to redraw one of those four diagrams (pictured below) to just show where energy was added to the system and the effect of gravity, what would you draw?



© Kosler Science, LLC





## Last Look

### This or That

Let's see if you can crack the code.  
You will need to identify which key  
word is being described in each  
statement.

convection

sink

sink

low  
pressure

low  
pressure

high/low

land breeze

land breeze

Occurs when heat energy transfers between  
two parts of a fluid of different  
temperatures

More dense fluids...

Less dense fluids...

As air masses cool, they becomes more  
dense and sinks toward the Earth's surface.

As air masses warm, they becomes less  
dense and rises above the Earth's surface.

Wind moves from an area of \_\_\_\_\_  
pressure to \_\_\_\_\_ pressure.

Gentle wind that flows from the cool air  
over the water (high pressure) toward the  
warm air over the land (low pressure).

Breeze that flows from the cool air above  
land (high pressure) toward the warmer air  
above the water (low pressure).

conduction

rise

rise

high  
pressure

high  
pressure

low/high

sea breeze

sea breeze