

Directions: Jet streams are bands of strong wind that generally blow from west to east all across the globe. They impact weather, air travel and many other things that take place in our atmosphere. Gather more information about jet streams by watching the video and reading the text, then answer the follow up questions.

How do jet streams affect weather?

Long-distance winds that travel above global winds for thousands of kilometers are called **jet streams**. Air moves in jet streams with speeds that are at least 92 kilometers per hour and are often greater than 180 kilometers per hour. Like global and local winds, jet streams form because Earth's surface is heated unevenly. They flow in a wavy pattern from west to east.

Each hemisphere usually has two main jet streams, a polar jet stream and a subtropical jet stream. The polar jet streams flow closer to the poles in summer than in winter. Jet streams can affect temperatures. For example, a polar jet stream can pull cold air down from Canada into the United States and pull warm air up toward Canada. Jet streams also affect precipitation patterns. Strong storms tend to form along jet streams. Scientists must know where a jet stream is flowing to make accurate weather predictions.

Follow Up Questions:

What are two ways that jet streams affect weather?

What types of weather does the polar jet stream bring?

Click this link to watch a video about the Great Flood of 1993: [Click Here](#)

How did the jet stream effect the weather and cause the Great Flood of 1993?

BONUS: Click this link to see global jet streams in real life: [Click Here](#)

