

ocean currents and the Pacific Garbage Patch



Pacific garbage patch

- the worlds largest dump?
- filled with tiny plastic “confetti”

large plastic debris
from the garbage patch



Sometimes animals get caught in large pieces of floating trash:



photo: NOAA

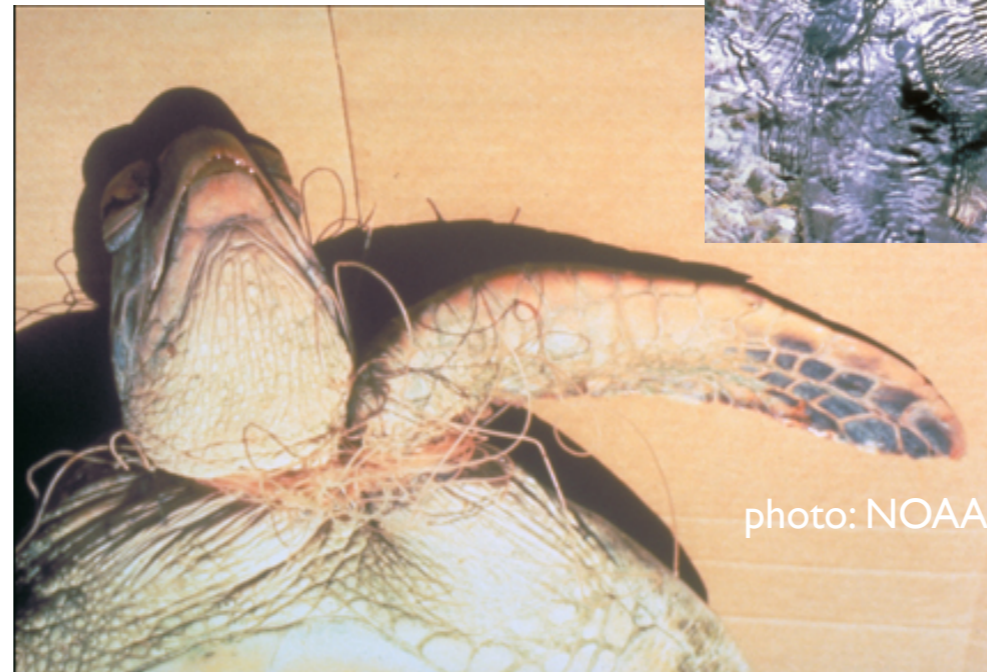


photo: NOAA

How do plants and animals interact with small small pieces of plastic?

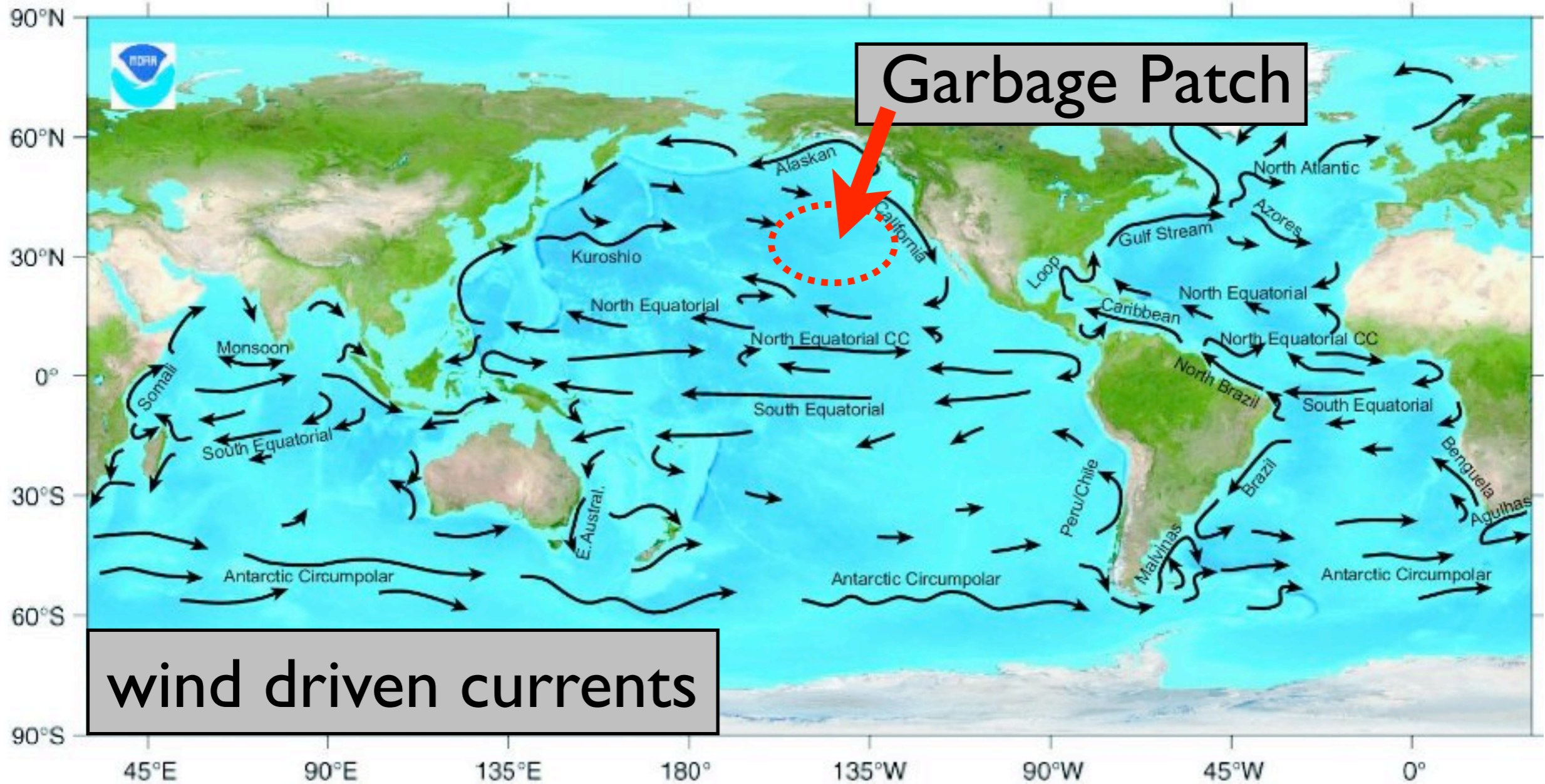


photo: Scripps Institution of Oceanography

fish larvae growing on plastic

There is a lot of trash in the middle of the ocean,
but how did it get there?

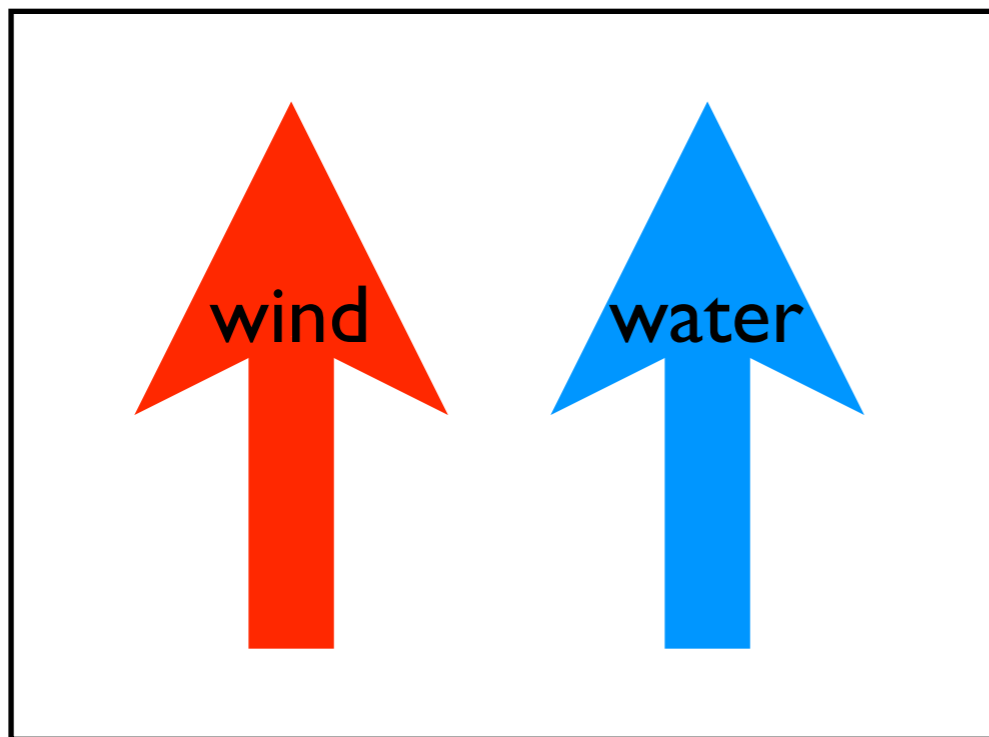
OCEAN CURRENTS



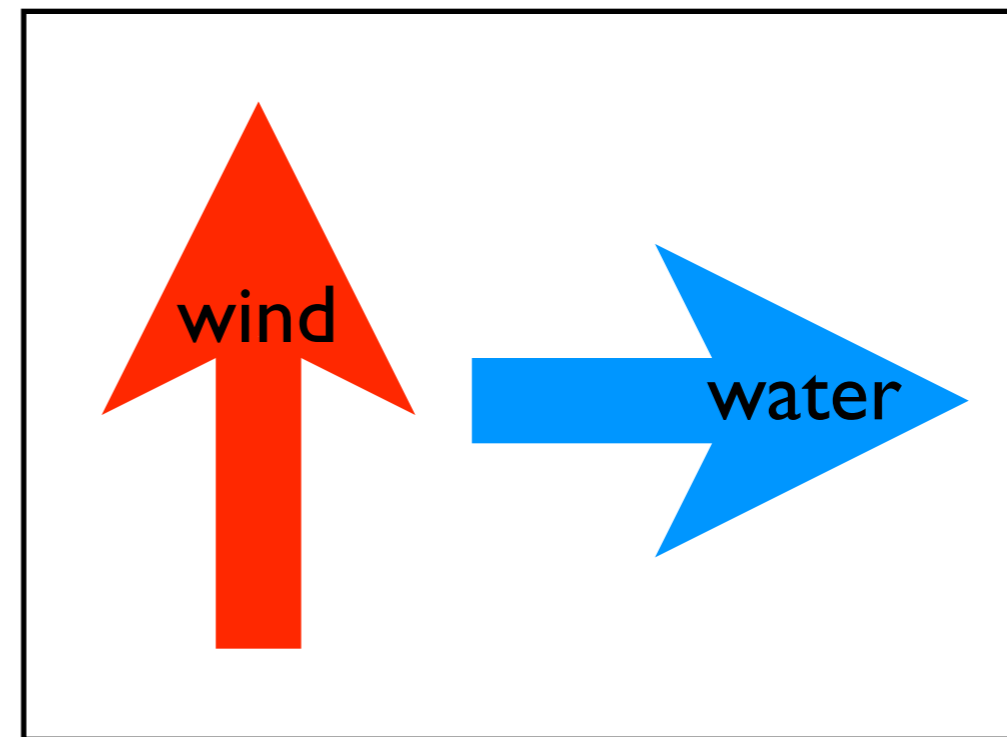
wind driven currents

Wind drives most of the currents near the surface of the ocean.

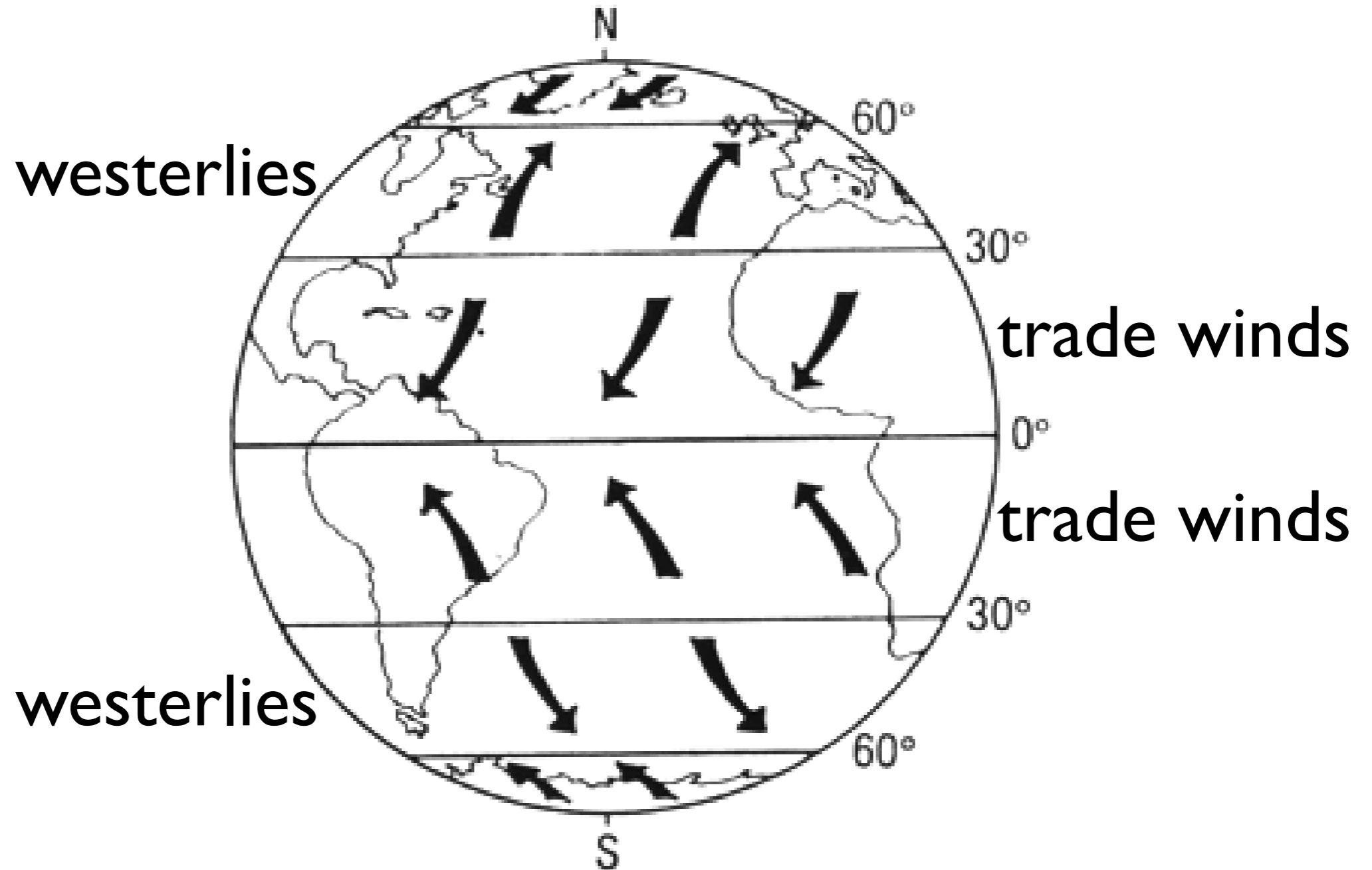
no Coriolis



with Coriolis

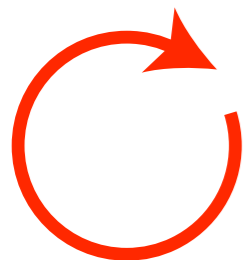


general global wind pattern



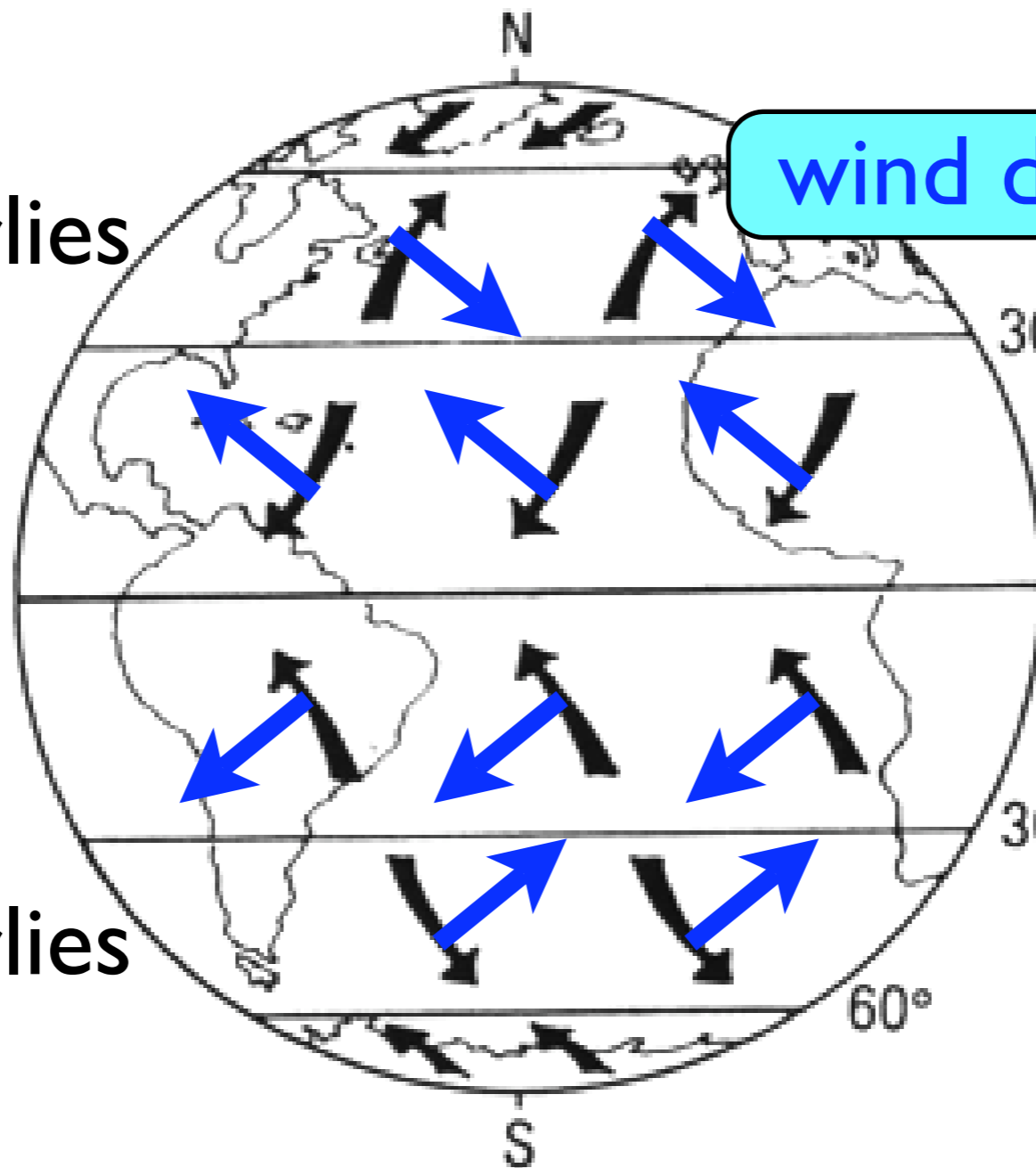
general global wind pattern

northern hemisphere
Coriolis



westerlies

wind driven currents

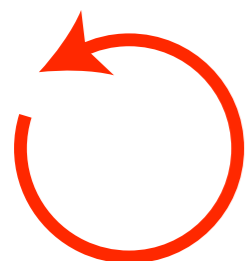


trade winds

trade winds

westerlies

southern hemisphere
Coriolis



wind driven coastal upwelling

