

Keeping “Current”... Climate Change and the Gulf Stream Infographic Activity

Duration: 2 class days

Objective: Students will put together what the importance of the Gulf Stream is on the planet.

Product: an infographic (see class website posting for example) documenting:

- a) What the Gulf Stream is.
- b) How it works.
- c) What its path is and how this may influence its motion.
- d) At least 3 current studies that describe what increasing climate can do to the motion of this current.
- e) Graphical representations of the current, where it travels and any additional information that will enhance the current's importance and/or function on the Earth.
- e) What the impact on not just the oceans but on the continents that rely on this current will be.

Using the information within the documentary “Gulf Stream and the Next Ice Age” posted to the class website, students will be able to obtain the following information to use in their infographics.

1. Gulf Stream's impact on the climate of Eastern Europe
2. How has it influenced the different botanical species in different geographical locations
3. Who is credited with first naming the “Gulf Stream”. What did this person predict it would allow you to do?
4. What type of water circulation occurs when the Gulf Stream meets the cold polar waters? What then happens to the surface waters and where do they go, and why?
5. How do the elver fish use the ocean currents?
6. How do Atlantic cod fish rely on the ocean currents?
7. 20,000 years ago, what happened when the ice melt occurred in the Atlantic ocean? What was remarkable about the events that were left behind by this event?
8. What did Dr. Broker of Columbia University determine about the Gulf Stream, especially as it travels through the Atlantic and its flow is interrupted?
9. How is the conveyor reliant on global temperature?
10. Why is it important to monitor the status of the ice barriers in the northern latitudes?
11. What do the predictions say about the impact on the ocean conveyor belt and what could possibly happen if it does come to a halt?