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**Convection Currents Lab Instructions**

*Convection currents can be seen in many of the Earth’s systems. You will be investigating these currents and the factors that drive them.*

**Procedure**

1. Fill the plastic tub half way full of tap water.
2. CAREFULLY place the tub on top of four cups that you have turned over.
3. Obtain a Ziploc bag and fill 1/3 of the way full of ice. Place the bag in the tub on one end.
4. Fill one coffee cup ¾ of the way full of hot water. Place this cup under the opposite end of the tub from the ice.
5. Fill the two plastic cups ¾ of the way full with tap water.
6. Choose two contrasting colors of food die. One will need to represent cold and the other hot. Add 10 drops of food coloring to the two separate cups.
7. GENTLY pour the hot colored water on the end where the hot water is and the cold colored water on the end where the ice is. Watch what happens both from above and from the side. You may want to take pics with your phone to reference later. **CAUTION: If the cups are poured into the tub too quickly the solutions will mix!!**
8. Once you have finished observing the layering, discard the solutions in the drain rinse out your cups.
9. Place all materials your tub and turn back in to the designated area.
10. Answer all post lab questions.