



read

Natural Hazards

Global Atmospheric Circulation



quiz



The Big Picture



GAC

Global atmospheric circulation is a simplified version of how air moves across the planet. It is used to help explain weather patterns and climatic regions. The global atmospheric circulation model is based around atmospheric cells. These cells are regions where the air moves in a circular motion.



Key Terms



Convection cell – Differences in air temp create high and low pressure areas.



Differential heating – Difference in how land and water surfaces absorb heat.



High pressure – Occurs when air is descending in the atmosphere.



Insolation – The amount of solar radiation (sunlight) an area receives.



Low pressure – Occurs when air is rising in the atmosphere.

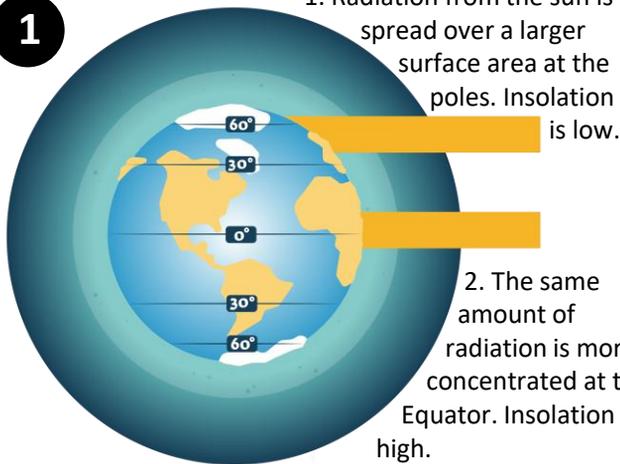


Westerlies – Winds that move air from high to low pressure areas.

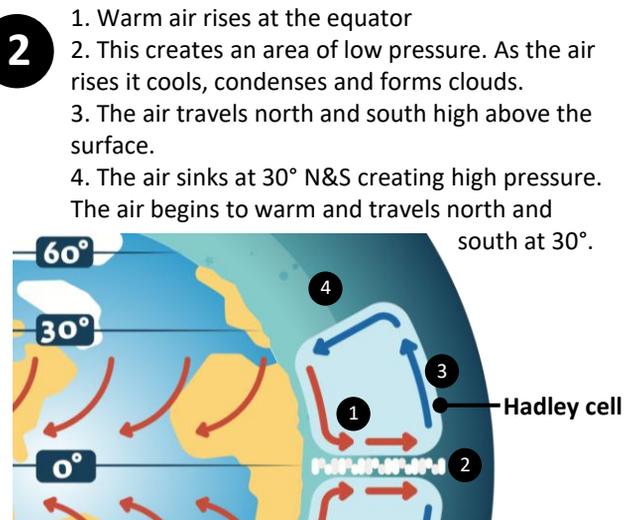


Global Atmospheric Circulation Model

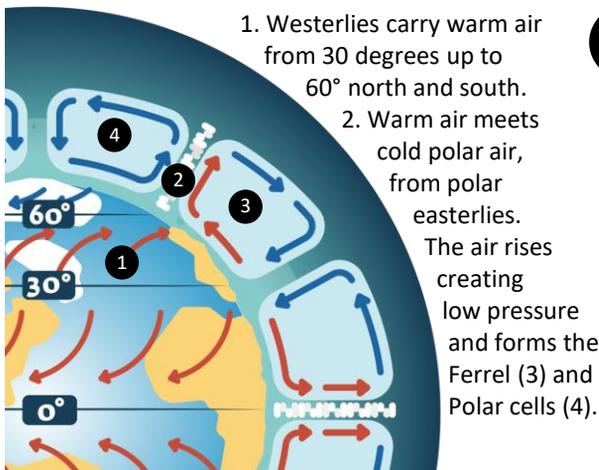
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