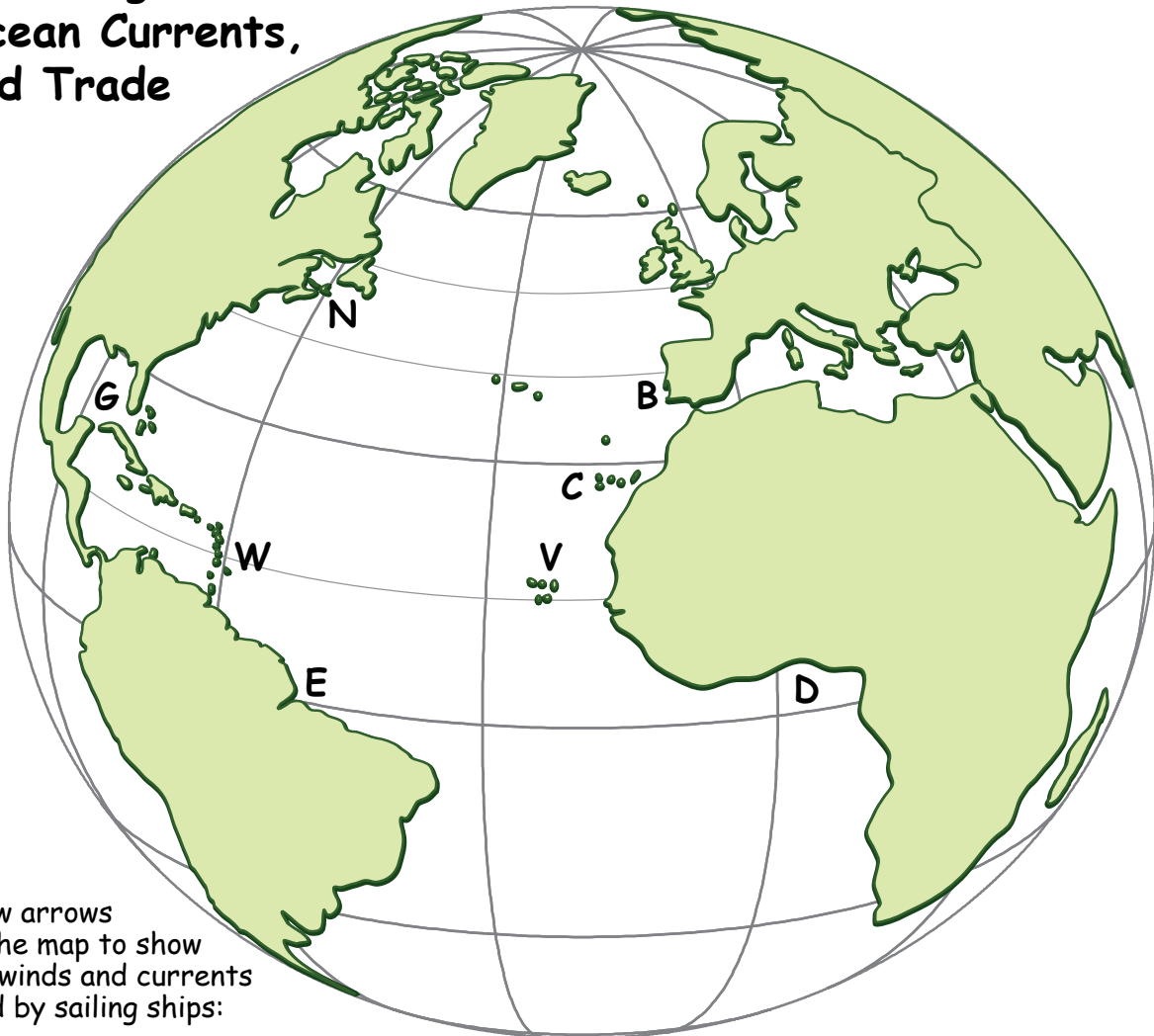


Prevailing Winds, Ocean Currents, and Trade

Name _____



Draw arrows
on the map to show
the winds and currents
used by sailing ships:

1. The Trade Winds blow from east to west between about 5 and 15 degrees of latitude north and south of the Equator (E). **Draw some arrows to show the Trade Winds blowing from the Cape Verde Islands (V) toward the Windward Islands (W).**
2. The Trade Winds push a lot of water toward the west and cause it to "pile up" in the Gulf of Mexico (G) and the Caribbean Sea west of the Windward Islands. **Put a CS on the map to mark the location of the Caribbean Sea.**
3. Some of the excess water in the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico flows around Florida and northeast along the Atlantic Coast toward Newfoundland (N). **Draw some arrows to show this current, which is called the Gulf Stream.**
4. At the latitude of Newfoundland, the wind often blows from west to east (that's why people in places like Michigan and New York look to the west for their coming weather) **Draw arrows to show these winds, called westerlies, as they blow toward Europe.**
5. To complete the cycle, some water flows southward along the west coast of Europe to replace water pushed across the ocean by the Trade Winds. **Draw arrows to show currents flowing south past Spain and Portugal (B) and the Canary Islands (C).**

Questions. How would these winds and currents help bring gold from Mexico to Spain?
How would they help traders move people from the Slave Coast (D) to the Americas?
What might happen if global warming moves the Trade Winds farther from the equator?