

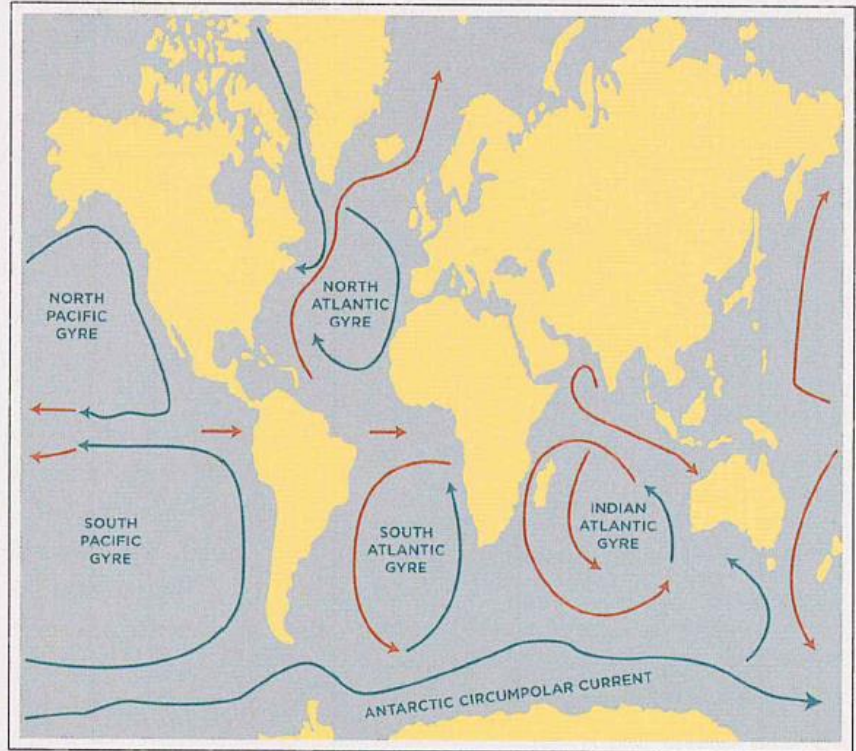
### Mankind Textbook: Bartolomeu Dias and Ocean Gyre

**Directions:** Read the selection and use the map to help you to answer the questions that follow. Remember to restate and use complete sentences.

#### OCEAN GYRE

The combination of wind and current that pushed Dias around the southern tip of Africa owes much of its force to a phenomenon called an *ocean gyre*, a circular ocean current formed by the wind patterns and the rotation of the earth. The earth's rotation, in a pattern called the *Coriolis effect*, forces ocean currents into a clockwise motion in the northern hemisphere and a counterclockwise motion in the southern hemisphere. Because the continents that border the oceans restrict the flow of the water, the currents close in on themselves, creating a circular flow of water around a calm center.

There are five major ocean gyres, two in the Atlantic, two in the Pacific, and one in the Indian Ocean. These gyres are responsible for much of the ocean's surface currents.



*An ocean gyre is a large circular rotating current. This is a map of the five major ocean gyres.*

1. According to the document, what is an ocean gyre?

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2. According to the document, list two ocean gyres that would have been most useful for Europeans trying to travel to the Americas.

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