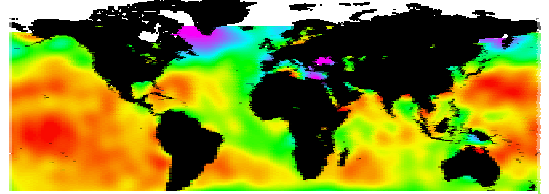


## El Niño Conference

### - an introduction to environmental science



[Image Source: <http://scb.gsfc.nasa.gov>]

You have all heard of El Niño. It's in the newspapers, on TV, it becomes the excuse for nearly everything.

But what exactly is it, what causes it, how does it affect people, plant and animal life?

Here are some basic facts:

- El Niño is a disruption of the ocean-atmosphere system in the tropical Pacific which has important consequences for weather around the globe.
- El Niño events occur about every four to seven years and typically last for around 12 to 18 months. They are a natural part of the climate system.

In this project you will take the roles of scientists who research certain aspects of the phenomenon and report their findings at an international conference.

Use the internet to find relevant data and reports. Think of adequate visualisation of your findings.

#### Group 1:

You are a group of climatologists. You will have to explain the origin of the disruption of the ocean-atmosphere system called "El Niño" with the help of maps and diagrams. You will also have to explain how you gather data about the changes that enable you to predict El Niño years.

#### Group 2:

You are a group of farmers in Australia. You prepare a talk about how El Niño regularly affects Australia and you suggest measures to reduce the negative effects.

#### Group 3:

You are a group of Peruvian fisherman whose business greatly suffers in years of El Niño. On a global El Niño conference you will need to explain why South Americans call this occurrence El Niño, and how it hurts your country, and how it affects the fishing industry.

#### Group 4:

You are a group of biologists that studies the impact of El Niño on various species around the globe. You will have to report your findings at the international conference.