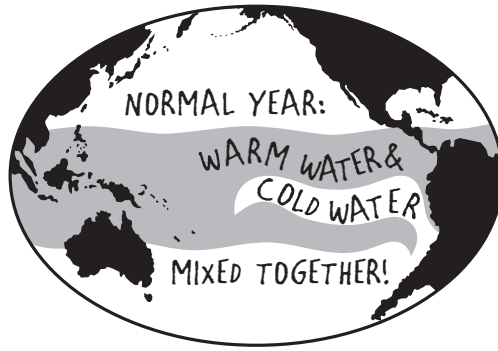
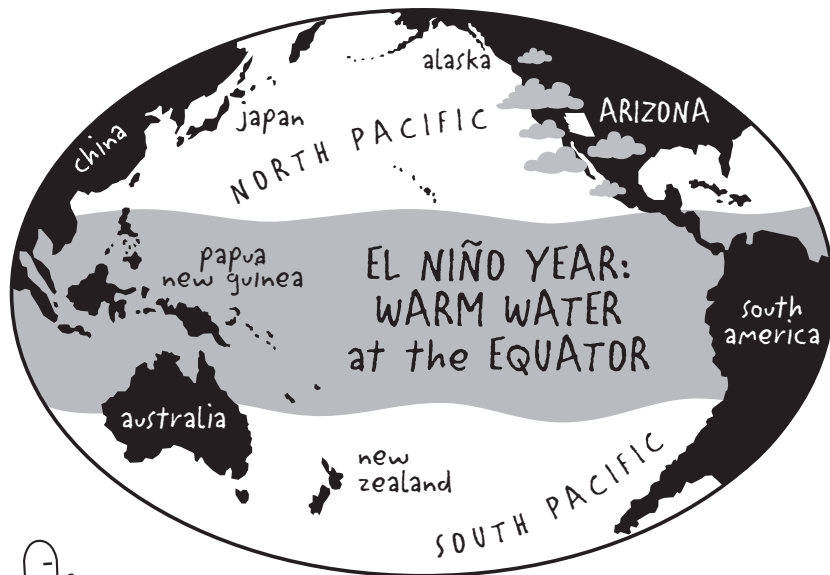


Why does El Niño make it rain in Arizona?



Every 2 to 7 years, warm water builds up in the Pacific Ocean, near South America. The warm water heats the air above it, affecting air pressure, the sea level and the winds that blow across the Pacific. This is called 'EL NIÑO' and it affects weather all around the world, causing heavy rains in dry areas (Arizona) and droughts in places that are normally rainy.



Weather depends on ocean temperatures. Where the ocean is warm, more rain falls in that part of the world. In El Niño years, the Pacific Ocean is extra warm on the surface. In normal years, strong winds push the warm surface water west toward Indonesia. When this happens, colder water from underneath rises up towards the surface and keeps the ocean cool.



For more information about our climate and flood safety visit www.rfcd.pima.gov

