

Activity 2. Track the El Niño

Color the TOPEX/Poseidon images that show the rise and fall of the 1997-1998 El Niño so that areas of similar height are the same from one month to the next. These maps show the sea-surface height anomaly which is the difference between the height during that particular 10-day period and the average height for that time of year. High areas correspond to warm water, low areas correspond to cold water. Use a color scheme that gives you a map that is easy to interpret.

Learn More About The El Niño

There is a lot that you can discover about the El Niño by looking at your map.

- (1) Which way did the warm water travel?
- (2) The El Niño was at a maximum in November. How can we know that?
- (3) How long did it take for the El Niño to reach a maximum?
- (4) How long did it take for the El Niño to disappear?
- (5) Look at a map of the United States. How far north were coastal waters affected by the El Niño?
- (6) How big was the area of warm water compared to your state or country?

