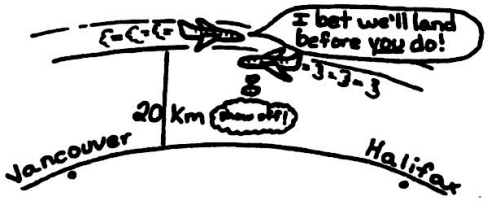
Jet Stream

There is another very strong wind that is caused by the spinning of the earth. This wind is at a height of 15 km and over North America. It always blows from West to East. Since this is close to the altitudes that passenger jets fly at, this wind has been named the "Jet Stream". The Jet Stream is the main reason that winds near the ground usually blow from west to east over most of North America - a prevailing westerly wind.



Factfile: A plane trip from Halifax to Vancouver will take about six hours going from East to West but only five hours if you are travelling in the other direction. This is because of the 200 km/hour jet stream.

Wind Chill

Winter winds can combine with cold temperatures to make things feel even colder. The wind helps to take heat away from a person's body making things feel colder than just the real temperature. The wind chill chart below shows us that at a temperature of -25° C with a 30 km/hour wind, it will really feel like -44° C. Now that's cold!

Wind Speed (km/h)	Temperature °C							
	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35
10	-2	-7	-12	-17	-22	-27	-32	-38
20	-7	-13	-19	-25	-31	-37	-43	-50
30	-11	-17	-24	-31	-37	-44	-50	-57
40	-13	-20	-27	-34	-41	-48	-55	-62
50	-15	-22	-29	-36	-44	-51	-58	-66

Factfile: Chinooks are extra warm, dry westerly winds that blow in from the Rocky Mountains over southern Alberta and Saskatchewan. A winter chinook can change the temperature from -15 °C to +10 °C in a matter of minutes, melting snow and ice. (The word chinook is taken from an Indian word meaning "snow-eater")