

Key Concept Builder 

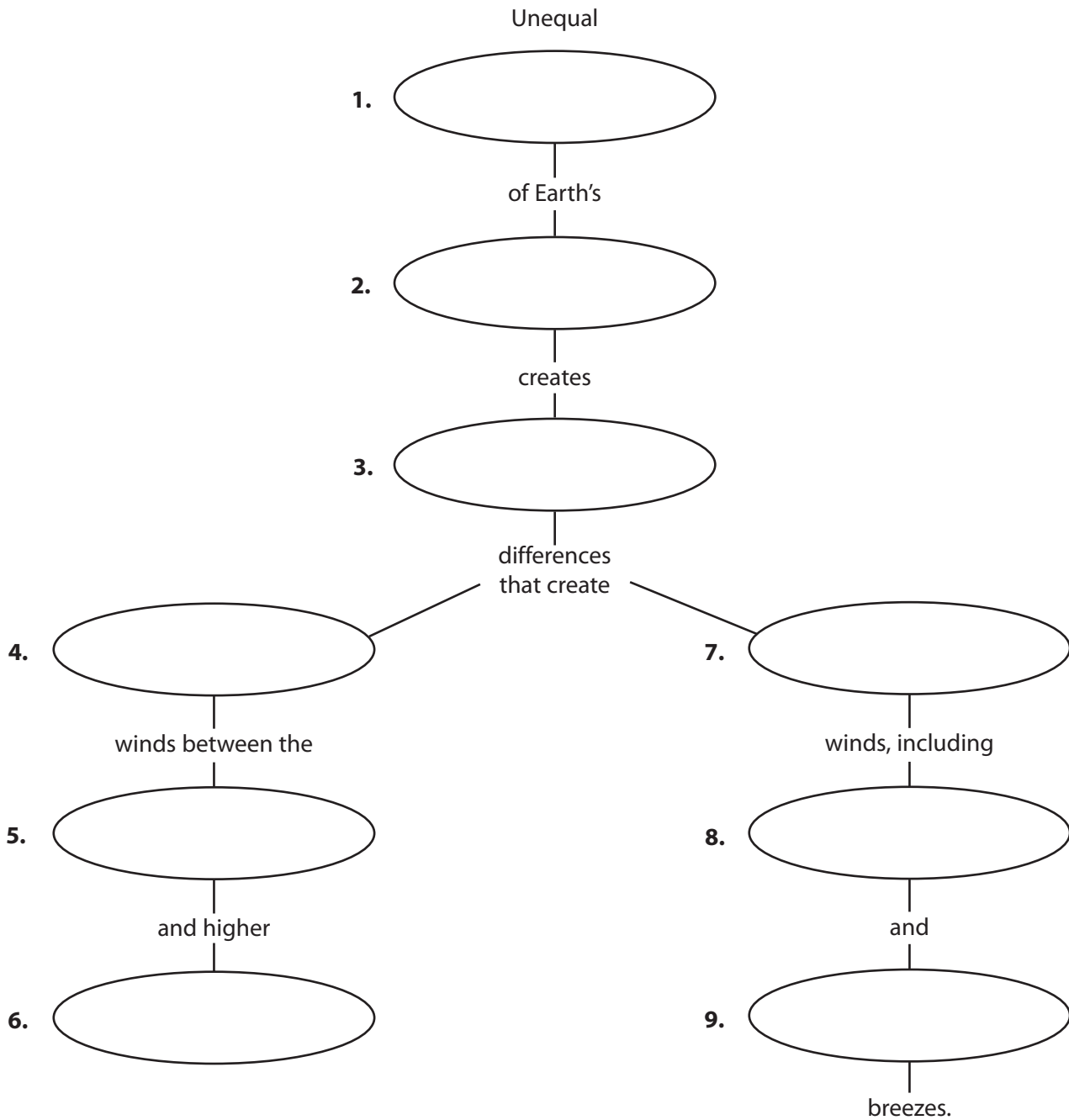
LESSON 3

Air Currents

Key Concept How does uneven heating of Earth’s surface result in air movement?

Directions: Complete this concept map by choosing terms from the word bank and writing them in the correct spaces. Each term is used only once.

heating global land latitudes local pressure sea surface tropics



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Key Concept Builder **LESSON 3**

Air Currents

Key Concept How does uneven heating of Earth's surface result in air movement?

Directions: On each line, write the term that correctly completes each sentence. Each term is used only once.

cold **poles** **tropics** **warm**

1. The lowest latitudes are in the _____.
2. The highest latitudes are near the _____.
3. The temperature of air affects its movement— _____ air rises, and _____ air sinks.

Directions: Circle the term in parentheses that correctly completes each sentence.

4. The amount of solar energy that a part of Earth's surface receives depends largely on the (angle/brightness) of the sunlight in that area.
5. Low air pressure is usually located over the (poles/tropics).
6. Air pressure variations in different areas are the source of (clouds/winds).
7. A land breeze usually occurs during the (day/night).
8. A sea breeze is a (cool/warm) wind that blows from the sea onto the land.
9. Global wind belts influence (climate/tides) and weather.

Key Concept Builder **LESSON 3**

Air Currents

Key Concept How are air currents on Earth affected by Earth's spin?

Directions: *On the line before each definition, write the letter of the term that matches it correctly. Each term is used only once.*

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| _____ 1. various distinct wind patterns near Earth's surface | A. westerlies |
| _____ 2. a phenomenon that causes air masses to apparently turn left or right | B. trade winds |
| _____ 3. steady winds that flow toward the equator | C. prevailing winds |
| _____ 4. areas of high pressure and calm air | D. easterlies |
| _____ 5. steady winds that flow toward the east | E. jet streams |
| _____ 6. cold winds near the poles that blow toward the east | F. convection cell |
| _____ 7. narrow bands of fast, high-altitude winds | G. Coriolis effect |
| _____ 8. a global wind belt | H. doldrums |

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LESSON 3

Air Currents

Key Concept What are the main wind belts on Earth?

Directions: Answer each question on the lines provided.

1. What is the name of the model that scientists use to describe air circulation in Earth's atmosphere?

2. In which layer of the atmosphere do these air movements occur?

3. Where does the warmest air rise in this model, and where does it move back to the surface?

4. Where does other air rise and sink in this model?

5. What causes winds flowing north or south to seem to turn toward the west or east, depending on the hemisphere? What is the name of this phenomenon?

