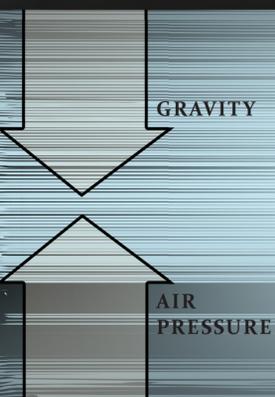


# WIND



A wind can occur wherever a difference in pressure between two locations is not balanced by some other force such as gravity.

## WHERE CAN WE SEE THE EFFECTS OF WIND?

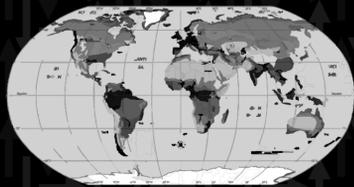


**HERE.**

Winds from wildfires have carried embers as far as 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the fire front, to start new fires.



There are global winds resulting from the difference in absorption of solar energy between the climate zones on Earth.



Here, the seeds of a dandelion are distributed over a field by a gentle breeze.

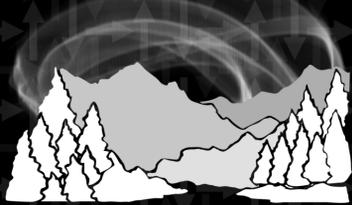


**THERE.**

The heating of the Sun's upper atmosphere produces solar wind, a stream of charged particles which flows away from the Sun at speeds of millions of miles per hour.



The impact of solar wind on Earth's upper atmosphere can produce geomagnetic storms that generate auroras, and can knock out power grids.



The solar wind, a stream of charged particles flowing off the Sun, was discovered by observing comet tails.



**EVERYWHERE.**

The combined effects of many supernova shock waves drives a galactic superwind, blowing gas out of the galaxy.



These superwinds were likely the main way that carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, iron and other heavy elements formed in supernovas were spread throughout the Universe.



Galactic winds are rare today, but they were common billions of years ago when collisions between galaxies were more frequent.



[HTE.SI.EDU/WIND](http://HTE.SI.EDU/WIND)