

# Answering a Question with Data

Your mission: It's the winter of 2015. The water along the coast of California is unusually warm. Tiny red crabs that are typically common in the warm waters of Mexico are now washing up along beaches of California. Are these observations the result of an El Niño? Your mission is to find out - using data.



*Red crabs, common in Mexico, washed ashore in CA.*

Question: Did an El Niño event occur during the winter of 2015-2016?

Make a Plan: Make a list below of the specific TEMPERATURE data you will need to answer the question. *Hint: can you answer the question by looking at data from only one year? Will you need maps, graphs or both?*

Data Set	Date	Map or Graph?
Example: Sea surface temperature	December 2001	map

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Get the data: Use the website to download the data you need.

*Need a line graph, but not sure how to make them with the data tool? You can find sea surface temperature graphs from years 2014-2016 on the following page.*

Interpret the data: What does your data show? Be specific and descriptive.

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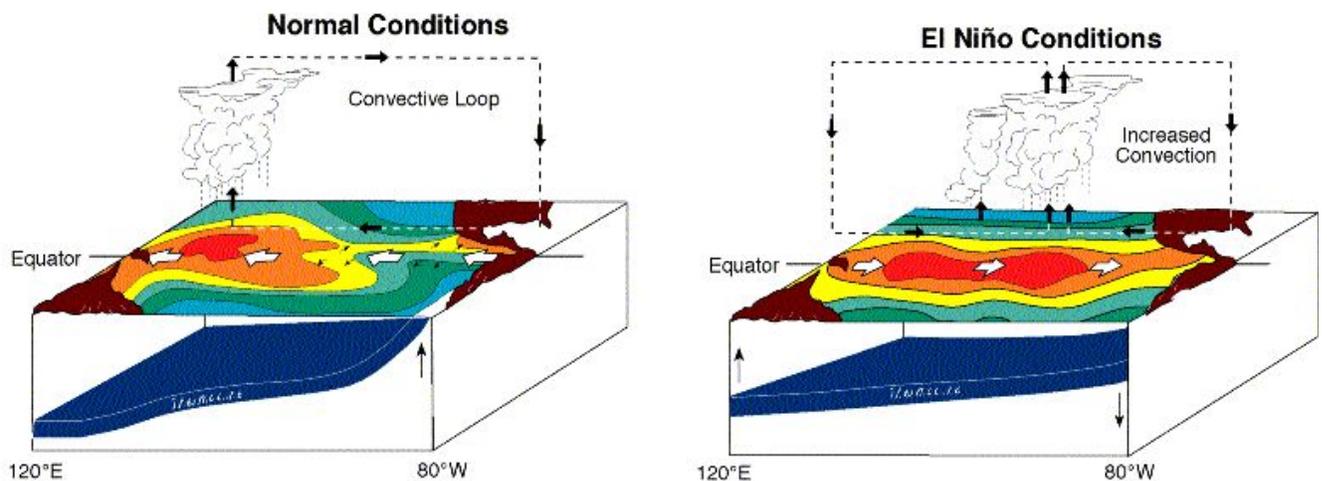
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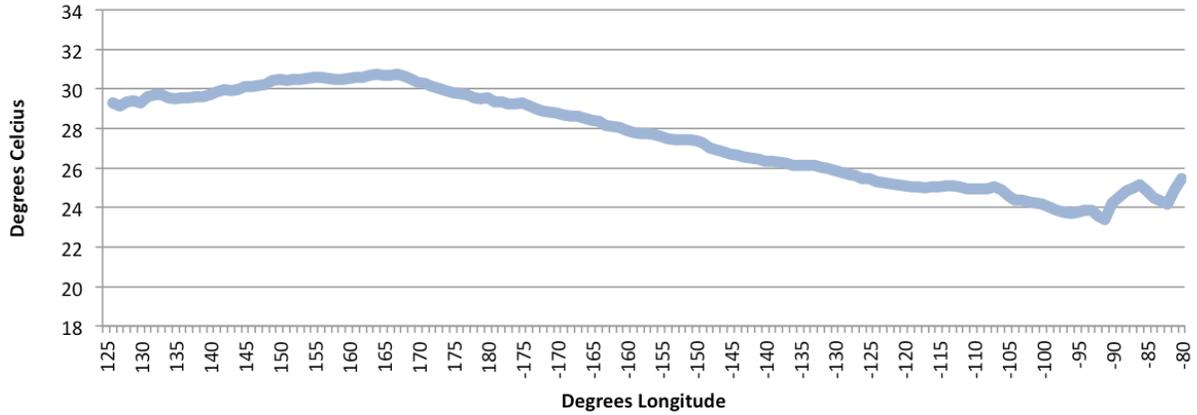
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Draw a Conclusion: Did an El Niño event occur during the winter of 2015-2016? \_\_\_\_\_

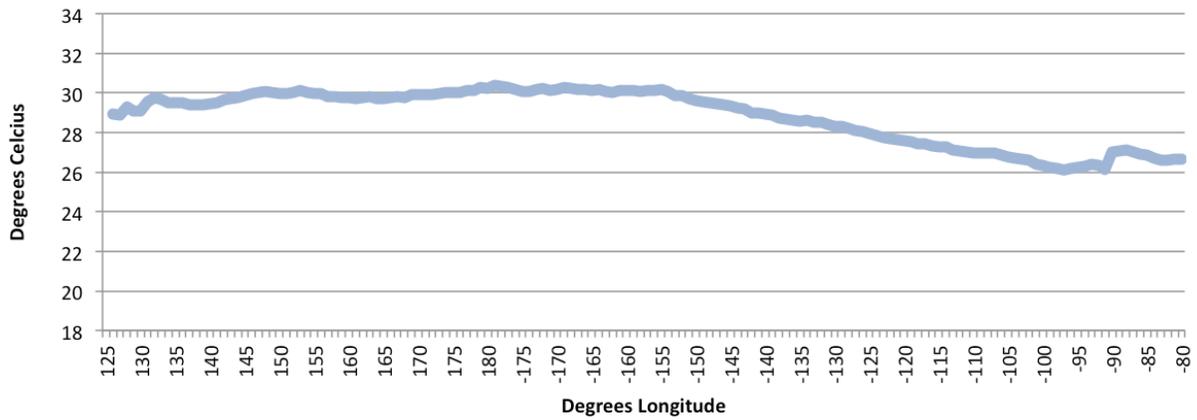


## REFERENCE DATA

### Sea Surface Temperature at the Equator, December 2014



### Sea Surface Temperature at the Equator, December 2015



### Sea Surface Temperature at the Equator, December 2016

