

# Vast iceberg could affect weather for years

An iceberg the size of Luxembourg has broken away from Antarctica, potentially blocking ocean currents supplying one quarter of the world's cold, dense seawater and disrupting weather patterns for years to come

Circulation in *polynya* – area of open water surrounded by sea ice – could be blocked by iceberg

1 Sea ice: Forms on surface – salt expelled into water as it freezes

2 Katabatic wind: Drives sea ice away from coast

3 Cold, high-density saline water sinks to ocean bottom

4 Warmer water rises to surface of polynya



Feb 7: 97km long **B9B** iceberg collides with **Mertz Glacier Tongue**

Feb 25 Calving of massive iceberg, 78km long and 35km wide



ANTARCTICA

**GLOBAL IMPACT:** Water density gradient causes thermohaline currents – the ocean conveyor belt responsible for weather phenomena such as *El Niño*

