

GLOSSARY - Water, Water Everywhere Lesson (Appendix A)

Aquifer – an underground water system

Condensation – gaseous water (water vapor) turning into liquid water.

Confluence – the meeting of two or more streams, the place where the streams meet

Evaporation – liquid water turning into gaseous water vapor

Groundwater – water that flows (infiltrates) into the rock layers below the soil.

Hydrology – the circulation and distribution of water

Infiltrate – to penetrate or sink down into; Water *infiltrates* the soil.

Permeability – the ability of a material to allow the passage of a liquid, such as water through rocks. Permeable materials such as gravel and sand, allow water to move quickly through them, whereas unpermeable material, such as clay, don't allow water to flow freely.

Porosity – a measure of the water bearing capacity of subsurface rock

Precipitation – rain or snow

Runoff – water that does not evaporate and flows across the surface of the land until it reaches a body of water.

Surface water – water that flows across the surface of the land in streams, rivers, ponds, lakes or oceans.

Transpiration – the loss of water vapor from the surface of leaves.

Water cycle – the continuous circulation of water from the atmosphere to the earth and back

Watershed – a geologically-determined land area within which water flows from the highest elevations to the lowest, contributing to a particular stream, river, or lake.

Water table – the upper edge of soil below which water fills all the spaces between the soil grains.

Wetlands – shallow water habitats, where the soil is covered by water (usually less than 2 meters), or saturated areas, where the soil is wet at or near the surface but not necessarily covered by water – i.e. swamps, marshes, bogs, fens.