5

Science Standard 5.3.a.

Dictionary

California Education and the Environment Initiative

Earth's Water

Dictionary

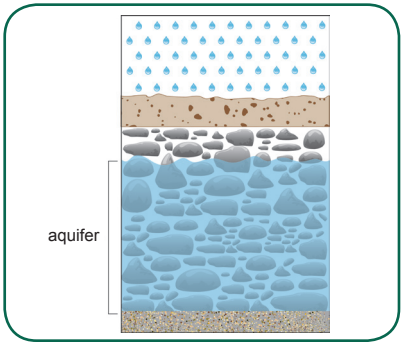
A

aqueduct

A structure used to move water from one place to another.

aquifer

An underground layer of rock or sediment that holds usable amounts of groundwater.



B

brackish

A mixture of salt and fresh water that has less salt content than sea water.

D

dam

A structure that stops, slows, or changes the flow of water, so that it collects in a reservoir.

drought

A long time with little or no precipitation.

E

estuary

The lower end of a river as it empties into a bay or the ocean and mixes with salt water.

F

fresh water

Water in rivers, lakes, and other freshwater ecosystems that contains little dissolved salt.

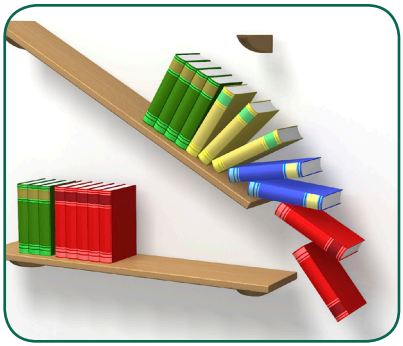
G

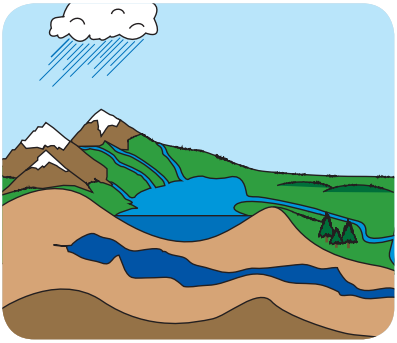
glacier

A large mass of ice that is formed on land and moves slowly down a slope or valley because of gravity.

gravity

The force that pulls objects to the center of Earth.





groundwater

Water in underground streams and aquifers (layers of rock and soil) beneath Earth's surface.

headwaters

The springs or small streams that supply water where a river first starts.

H

levee

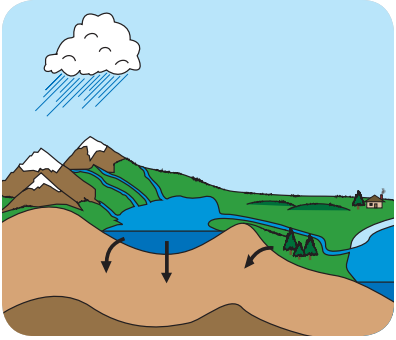
A raised bank beside a river formed naturally or built to control flooding.

L

P

percolation

The movement of water into the ground through soil, sand, and gravel.



population

The number of individuals of a species living in a place at a given time.

potable

Water that is safe to drink according to public health standards.

R

reservoir

A lake or other storage area where water is collected and kept for future use.

runoff

Water that flows over the ground and into streams and rivers.

S

saline

Water that contains at least 3.0% salt, by weight.

shortage

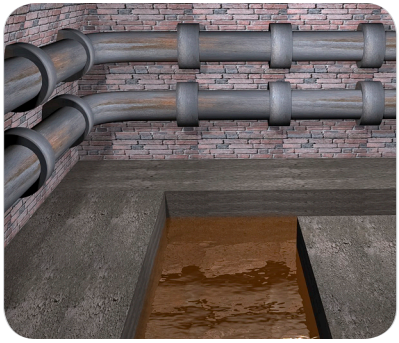
Not having enough of something that is needed.

storm drain

A large drain built to carry away excess water from a road during heavy rains.

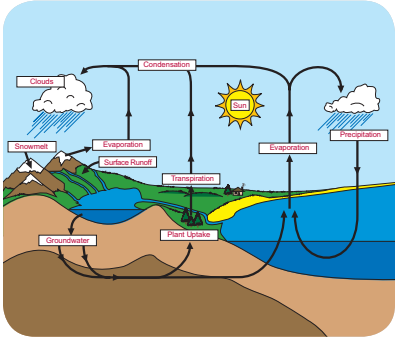
surface water

Water found on the land surface, usually in streams, rivers, ponds, marshes, lakes, and oceans.



wastewater

Used water from homes, businesses, and industries.



water cycle

The continuous movement of water between the atmosphere and Earth.

watershed

The land area that drains water into a particular body of water, such as a stream, river, lake, or ocean.

Unit Title: **Earth's Water**
Grade: **5**

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