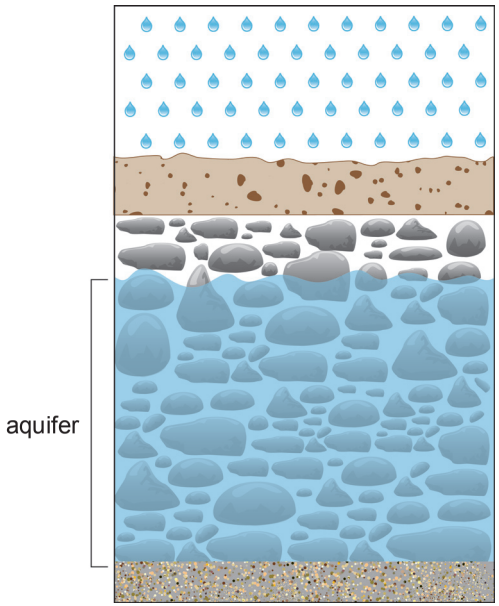

aquifer

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aqueduct

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

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

dam

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brackish

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

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

drought

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estuary

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

A long time with little or no precipitation.

fresh water

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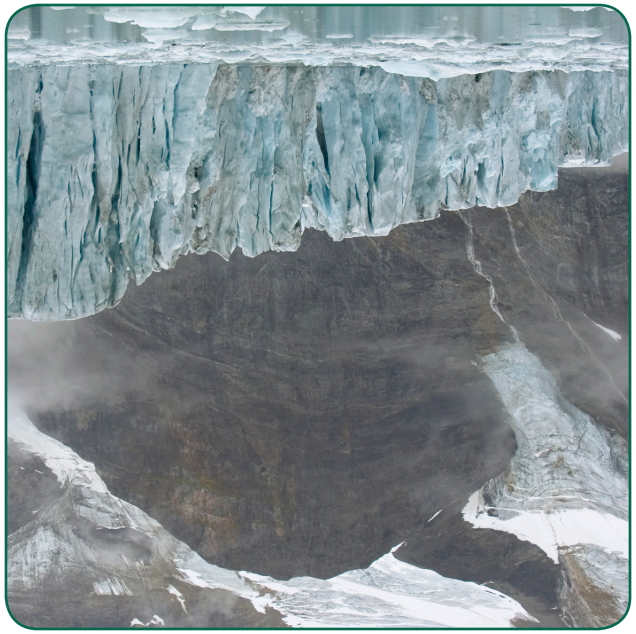
glacier



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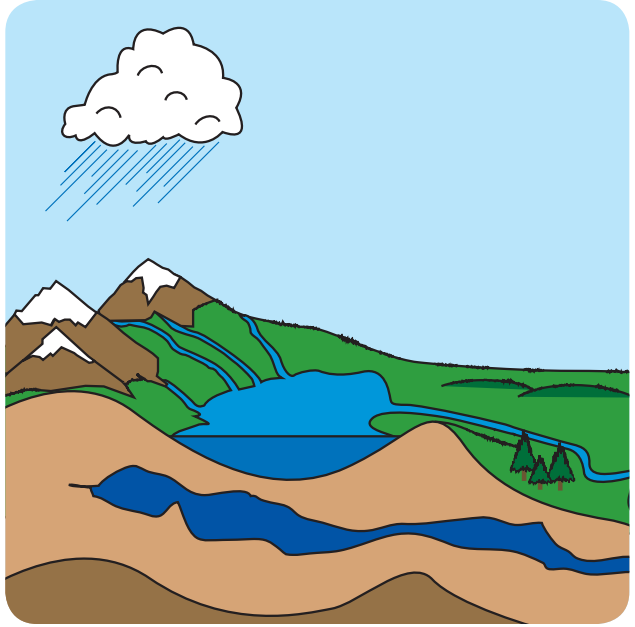
A large mass of ice that is formed on land and moves slowly down a slope or valley because of gravity.

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



groundwater

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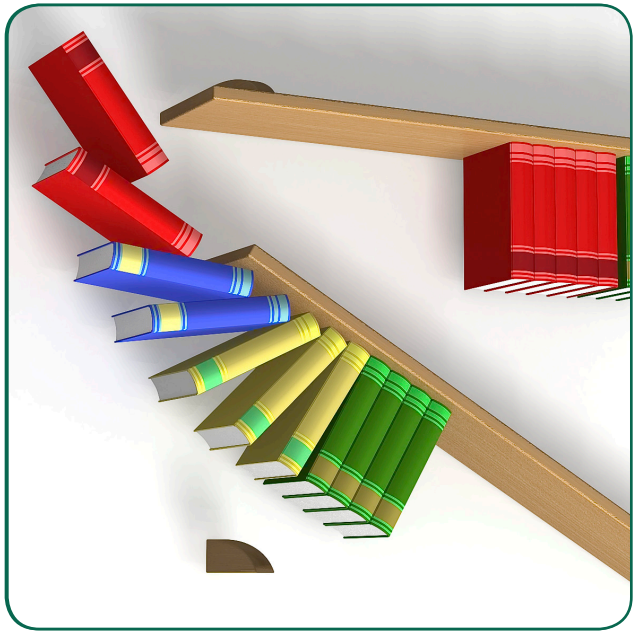
gravity



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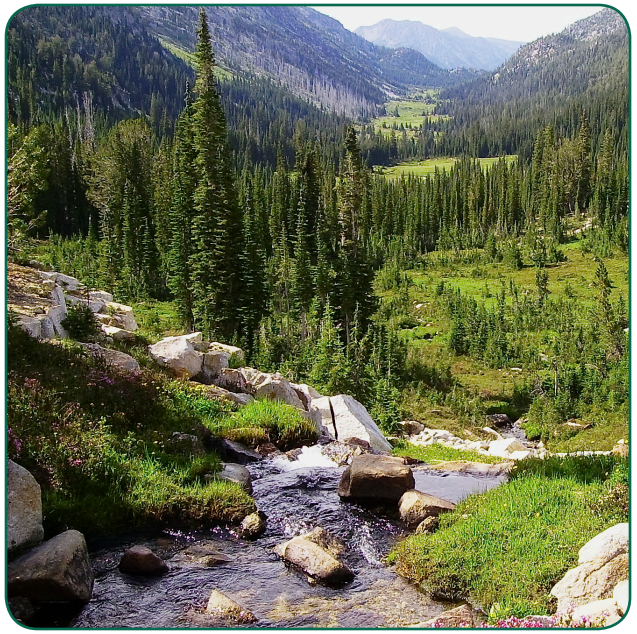
Water in underground streams and aquifers (layers of rock and soil) beneath Earth’s surface.

The force that pulls objects to the center of Earth.



headwaters

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levee

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

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

population

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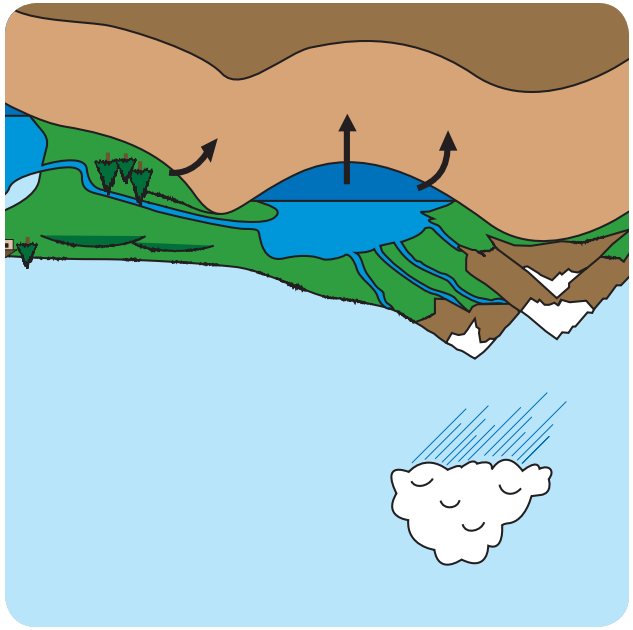
percolation



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

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

reservoir

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potable

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

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

saline

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runoff

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

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

shortage

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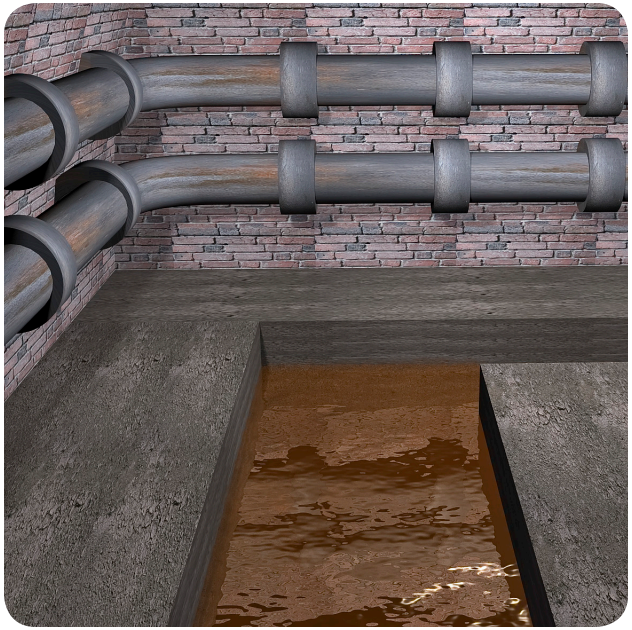
storm drain

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

Not having enough of something that is needed.



wastewater

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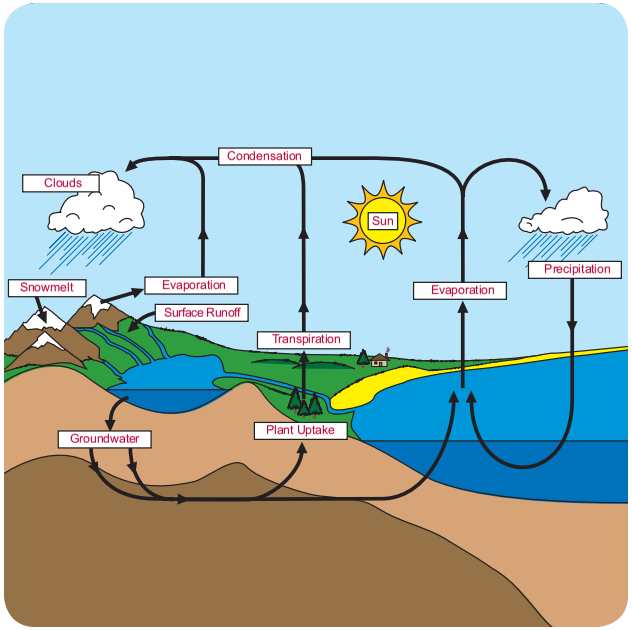
surface water

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

Used water from homes, businesses, and industries.



water cycle

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watershed

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

The continuous movement of water between the atmosphere and Earth.