

Water Definitions

- ◆ Aquifer comes from two Latin words: Aqua (water) and ferre (to bear or carry).
- ◆ Aquifer - an underground geological formation (soil and rocks) able to store and yield water
- ◆ Confined (Artesian) Aquifer - exists where groundwater is bounded between layers of impermeable substances like clay or dense rock.
- ◆ Unconfined Aquifer - an aquifer in which the upper boundary is the water table.
- ◆ Depletion - the loss of water from an aquifer at a rate greater than the recharge rate.
- ◆ Discharge - the outflow of water from an aquifer.
- ◆ Recharge - occurs when groundwater is replenished as water enters the saturation zone through events such as rain or snowmelt.
- ◆ Water Table - the top of the zone of saturation; it is the level below which soil and rock are saturated with water.
- ◆ Impermeable layer - a layer of material such as clay in an aquifer through which water does not pass.
- ◆ Saturation Zone - the portion below the Earth's surface that is saturated with water.
- ◆ Groundwater - the water found in the spaces between soil particles and cracks in rocks underground.
- ◆ Hydrology - the study of water.
- ◆ Hydrologic Cycle - the paths water takes through its various states throughout the oceans, groundwater, streams, atmosphere, etc.
- ◆ Watershed - the land area from which surface runoff drains into a stream, lake, or other body of water.