



KNOW YOUR WATER VOCABULARY

4th-5th Grade Level

Adhesion:

A phenomenon where hydrogen bonds cause water molecules to be attracted to other materials and stick to their surfaces. Example: when water sticks to glass.

Aqueduct:

A structure that carries water over long distances, often across land. It's often used to move large amounts of flowing water using systems like pipes, ditches, canals, and tunnels.

Aquifer:

A geological formation or structure that stores and/or transmits water, such as to wells and springs. Use of the term is usually restricted to those water-bearing formations capable of yielding water in sufficient quantities to constitute a usable supply for human uses.

Cohesion:

A phenomenon where hydrogen bonds cause water molecules to be attracted to and stick to each other. Example: water molecules forming into a droplet.

Condensation:

The process where water vapor (a gas) cools down and turns into liquid water. This process is part of the water cycle and is responsible for the formation of clouds, dew, and fog.

Conservation:

The careful use and protection of natural resources, such as water, forests, and wildlife, to make sure that they last a long time and are available for future generations.

Drought:

A period of below-average precipitation in a given region, resulting in prolonged shortages in its water supply.

Evaporation:

The process by which a liquid turns into a gas such as water becoming water vapor due to an increased amount of heat.

Evapotranspiration:

The process of water exiting the pores of plants and entering the atmosphere as gas. The combination of evaporation and transpiration. Part of the water cycle.

Gas:

One of the states of matter. A gas spreads out to fill whatever space it's in. The molecules that make up gas are far apart and can move around freely. A gas can become a liquid through condensation, or a solid through a process called deposition. Examples of gas: air, helium in a balloon, steam.

Groundwater:

The water found underground in the cracks and spaces in soil, sand, and rock. It is stored in and moves slowly through geologic formations of soil, sand, and rocks called aquifers.

Infiltration:

The process by which water on the ground surface enters the soil. Flow of water from the land surface into the subsurface.

Liquid:

One of the states of matter. A liquid flows and takes the shape of whatever container it's in. The molecules that make up liquid can move freely among themselves, which is why liquids can pour, pool, and splash. Liquids can become solid through freezing, or can become gases through evaporation. Examples of liquids: orange juice, milk, and water.

Matter:

Anything that has weight and takes up space. On Earth, matter exists in three forms: solids, liquids, and gases.

Natural Resource:

Raw materials found on and below the Earth's surface that are formed without any human intervention.

Precipitation

A form of water, such as rain, snow, or sleet, that condenses from the atmosphere. When it becomes too heavy to remain suspended, it falls to the Earth's surface.

Recharge:

The primary method through which precipitation seeps into the ground and enters an aquifer. This can occur naturally on any unpaved surface, sometimes in special catchment structures that water agencies like SGPWA create and maintain for the purpose of catching and percolating as much precipitation as possible to recharge groundwater supply.

Reservoir:

A place where water is collected and stored for future use.

Runoff:

Liquid that drains off a surface, as rain or snowmelt and flows off from the land into nearby creeks, streams, or ponds

Solid:

One of the states of matter. A solid is an object that holds its shape because the molecules that make it are packed closely together. Solids only change shape by force, such as through breaking or melting. A solid can become a liquid by melting, or a gas through a process called sublimation. Examples of solids: rocks, ice cubes.

Wastewater:

Water that has been used in the home, in a business, or as part of an industrial process.

Water Cycle:

A natural process by which water circulates between the Earth's oceans, atmosphere, and land, involving precipitation as rain and snow, drainage in streams and rivers, and return to the atmosphere by evaporation and transpiration. Also known as the Hydrologic Cycle.

Well:

A hole that is drilled into the ground to access water in an aquifer that we use as drinking water from groundwater.



Want more? Continue learning at:
www.iercd.org/sgpwa

