Vocabulary

Study the vocabulary words and definitions below.

aquifer .... layer of rock found underground that is filled with water

artesian well .... a well in which water naturally rises above the level at which it was initially found

clouds .... condensed water vapor in the atmosphere

condensation .... the changing of a gas into a liquid

dew point .... the temperature at which water vapor condenses

evaporation .... the changing of a liquid into a gas by the escaping of atoms or molecules into the atmosphere

geyser .... a fountain of hot water erupting periodically from the ground

groundwater .... underground water that supplies wells and springs

hard water .... water that contains large amounts of dissolved minerals (magnesium and calcium carbonate)

Vocabulary

hydrologic cycle .... the movement of water from the oceans and freshwater sources to the land and air and then back to the oceans; also called the *water cycle*

hydrosphere .... all of Earth's water

nitrates .... pollutants from fertilizers or waste products of animals that seep into the water

phosphates .... pollutants from detergents or fertilizers that seep into water

pollutant .... substance that causes harm to the environment

pollution .... the contamination of the environment with waste

precipitation .... moisture that falls to Earth as rain, hail, sleet, or snow

runoff .... excess rainwater that drains into lakes and other bodies of water

saltwater intrusion .... when salt water moves into the bodies of fresh water

saturated .... a condition in which a substance can hold no more water

Vocabulary

sinkhole .... a depression in a region where soluble rock has been removed by groundwater

soft water .... water that does not contain dissolved minerals

spring .... a flow of groundwater that emerges naturally at the ground surface

transpiration .... the process by which water evaporates from the leaves of plants

water cycle .... the movement of water from the oceans and freshwater sources to the land and air and then back to the oceans; also called the *hydrologic cycle*

water table .... the upper level of the saturated zone of groundwater

water vapor .... water in a gaseous state