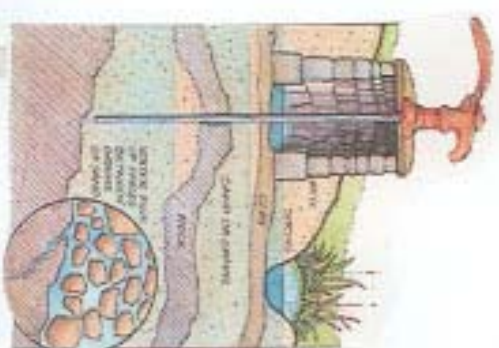


An **aquifer** is a body of rock that can store much water and from which water flows freely.



A drought is a long period of very dry weather when the rainfall for a region drops far below the normal amount. The seriousness of the resulting water shortage depends on the degree of the water shortage, size of the area affected, and the duration and warmth of the dry period.

To **evaporate** is the process of liquid water becoming vapor. In a watershed, this evaporation comes from water surfaces, land surfaces, and snow fields.



Credit: Kidzone Fun Page

Groundwater is water that soaks deep into soil and rock, supplying springs and wells. Groundwater can be polluted by agricultural or industrial pollutants.



Hard water is water that contains relatively large amounts of dissolved minerals, especially calcium, iron, and magnesium.

Karst topography is a region where the effects of chemical weathering due to groundwater are clearly visible. Grand Caverns is a great example of Karst.

Limestone is soft, sedimentary rock consisting of at least 50% calcium carbonate (CaCO_2) by weight. The caverns in Virginia are limestone caverns.



Permeability is the ease with which water flows through the open spaces in a rock or sediment.



Porosity is a measure of the percentage of open spaces in sediment or rock. It tells how much water a rock can hold.

$$\phi = \frac{V_v}{V_T}$$

Recharge is water added to an aquifer.

Rainfall that seeps into the ground is one kind of recharge.





Saturation is being filled to capacity. Air that contains all the water vapor it can hold at a specific temperature is saturated.

A sinkhole is a depression in the earth's surface caused by dissolving of underlying limestone, salt, or gypsum. Found in areas with Karst topography.



A solvent is a substance that dissolves other substances, forming a solution. Water dissolves more substances than any other.



A spring is caused by the flow of groundwater that emerges naturally at the land surface.



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The water table is the upper limit of groundwater within an unconfined aquifer.

