

CHAPTER 13 VOCABULARY - Water Resources

MILLER LITE, 17th EDITION

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| aquifer | Porous, water-saturated layers of sand, gravel, or bedrock that can yield an economically significant amount of water. |
| dam | A structure built across a river to control the river's flow or to create a reservoir. See <i>reservoir</i> . |
| desalination | Purification of salt water or brackish (slightly salty) water by removal of dissolved salts. |
| drainage basin | See <i>watershed</i> . |
| drought | Condition in which an area does not get enough water because of lower-than-normal precipitation or higher-than-normal temperatures that increase evaporation. |
| floodplain | Flat valley floor next to a stream channel. For legal purposes, the term often applies to any low area that has the potential for flooding, including certain coastal areas. |
| groundwater | Water that sinks into the soil and is stored in slowly flowing and slowly renewed underground reservoirs called aquifers; <i>underground water in the zone of saturation, below the water table</i> . Compare <i>runoff, surface water</i> . |
| natural recharge | Natural replenishment of an aquifer by precipitation, which percolates downward through soil and rock. See <i>recharge area</i> . |
| recharge area | Any area of land allowing water to percolate down through it and into an aquifer. See <i>aquifer, natural recharge</i> . |
| reliable runoff | Surface runoff of water that generally can be counted on as a stable source of water from year to year. See <i>runoff</i> . |
| reservoir | Artificial lake created when a stream is dammed. See <i>dam</i> . |
| subsidence | Slow or rapid sinking of part of the earth's crust that is not slope-related. |
| surface runoff | Water flowing off the land into bodies of surface water. See <i>reliable runoff</i> . |
| surface water | Precipitation that does not infiltrate the ground or return to the atmosphere by evaporation or transpiration. See <i>runoff</i> . Compare <i>groundwater</i> . |
| virtual water | Water that is not directly consumed but is used to produce food and other products. |
| water footprint | A rough measure of the volume of water that we use directly and indirectly to keep a person or group alive and to support their lifestyles. |
| water table | Upper surface of the zone of saturation, in which all available pores in the soil and rock in the earth's crust are filled with water. See <i>zone of aeration, zone of saturation</i> . |
| watershed | Land area that delivers water, sediment, and dissolved substances via small streams to a major stream (river). |
| zone of aeration | Zone in soil that is not saturated with water and that lies above the water table. See <i>water table, zone of saturation</i> . |
| zone of saturation | Zone where all available pores in soil and rock in the earth's crust are filled by water. See <i>water table, zone of aeration</i> . |