

WATER CONSERVATION: VOCABULARY LIST



Aquifer	Aqueduct	Atoms	Atmosphere
Brackish	Condensation	Conservation	Delta
Drought	Evaporation	Glacier	Impermeable
Infiltration	Natural Resource	Permeable	Precipitation
Recharge	Reservoir	Surface water	Transpiration
Wastewater	Water Cycle	Water Molecules	

- **Aqueduct:** A fabricated watercourse constructed to convey water from one location to another. An aqueduct is any system of pipes, ditches, canals, tunnels, and other structures used for this purpose.
- **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 quantity to constitute a usable supply for people's uses.
- **Atoms:** The smallest unit of an element, consisting of at least one proton and (for all elements except hydrogen) one or more neutrons in a dense central nucleus, surrounded by one or more shells of electrons.
- **Atmosphere:** The mixture of gases surrounding the Earth or other celestial body, held in place by gravity.
- **Brackish:** Slightly salty or briny water, water that has more salinity than fresh water, but not as much as seawater. It may result from mixing of seawater with fresh water, as in estuaries.
*Extension vocabulary: saline, brine, estuary
- **Condensation:** The conversion of a gas to liquid, which is the opposite process of evaporation.
- **Conservation:** The act of conserving; such as saving Natural Resources.
- **Delta:** A delta is an area of land in which a river divides into smaller rivers and empties into a larger body of water. Ex: The Sacramento Delta.
- **Drought:** A period of below-average precipitation in a given region, resulting in prolonged shortages in its water supply.
- **Evaporation:** Evaporation is the process by which water changes from a liquid to a gas or vapor.
- **Glacier:** Huge mass of ice, formed on land by the compacting and crystallization of snow that moves very slowly down a slope or outward due to its own weight.
- **Impermeable:** A surface that will not allow passage or drainage of liquid or gas to pass through.
- **Infiltration:** The process by which water on the ground surface enters the soil. A flow of water from the land surface into the subsurface.
- **Natural Resource:** A substance or material such as water or trees that is naturally found on Earth and is necessary or useful to humans.

- **Permeable:** A surface that will allow water to pass through down into the ground. Capable of being passed through or permeated, especially by liquids or gas.
- **Precipitation:** Water released from clouds in the form of rain, sleet, snow, or hail.
- **Recharge:** Water added to an aquifer. For instance, rainfall that seeps into the ground.
- **Reservoir:** A natural or artificial place where water is collected and stored for use, especially water for supplying a community, irrigating land, furnishing power.
- **Transpiration:** Process by which water that is absorbed by plants, usually through the roots, is evaporated into the atmosphere from the plant surface, such as leaf pores.
- **Surface Water:** Water that is above ground such as in a river, lake, wetland, or ocean.
- **Wastewater:** Any water that has been adversely affected in quality. Wastewater can originate from agricultural activities, surface runoff or storm water, and from sewer inflow or infiltration.
- **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.
- **Water Molecule:** The water molecule is formed from two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom. Extension vocabulary: Molecule