

Vocabulary #11

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Stream Load	Solid matter or sediment carried by a stream.
Aquifer	A body of permeable rock that can contain or transmit groundwater.
Zone of Saturation	The area in an aquifer, below the water table, in which relatively all pores and fractures are full with water.

Capillary Fringe	Subsurface layer in which groundwater seeps up from a water table by capillary action to fill pores.
Water Table	The level below which the ground is saturated with water.
Subsidence	The gradual caving in or sinking of an area of land.

Salt Water Intrusion	The movement of saline water into freshwater aquifers, which can lead to contamination of drinking water sources.
Point Source	Water pollution that came from a single identifiable source such as a pipe, factory smokestack, etc.
Non-Point Source	Water pollution that came from an unidentified source such as as agricultural runoff, drainage, etc.
Potable Water	Water that is safe to drink without risk of health problems.