



GLOSSARY



Here is a further explanation of words and phrases printed in bold in Water World:

Accumulation

Accumulation is the part of the Water Cycle in which water gathers in large quantities such as in rivers, lakes, oceans, glaciers, ice caps and aquifers.

Acid

A chemical substance that dissolves in water, has a sour taste, and turns blue litmus paper red.

Amphibian

A small animal that spends part of its life cycle in water and part of its life cycle on land. Amphibians hatch in water and breathe with gills. Then they develop lungs so the adults can breathe air. Amphibians are cold-blooded animals with skeletons inside their bodies. Frogs, toads, and salamanders are all amphibians.

Bacteria

Microscopic organisms that often play a role in the decay of living things, the process of fermentation, and sometimes in causing disease. Bacteria are each made up of only one cell, but different kinds of bacteria can take different shapes. While some kinds of bacteria are dangerous, most kinds are useful because they help in the digestion of food, in the making of soil, in the creation of medicines and in many other natural processes.

Blizzard

A heavy snowstorm that lasts for a long time.

Blood vessel

Any of the tubes in the body through which the blood moves. Arteries, veins and capillaries are types of blood vessel.

Brackish

Brackish water has more salt in it than fresh water, but not as much as seawater. It may result from the mixing of seawater with fresh water, as in estuaries, or it may occur in brackish fossil aquifers.

Canal

A man-made channel of water used by boats. Canals also carry water to crops.

Capillary action

The ability of a liquid to flow in narrow spaces without the help of external forces like gravity.

Carbon Dioxide

A colourless, odourless gas that is made up of carbon and oxygen. Carbon dioxide is in the air and is used in fizzy drinks. Frozen carbon dioxide is called dry ice.

Cell

A tiny unit of plant or animal life, with a nucleus and surrounded by a very thin membrane. All living things are made of cells.

Cellulose

The main component of plant tissue, used in making paper, cellophane, and fabrics. The woody parts of trees and plants are made of cellulose.

Chlorine

A chemical element that combines with sodium to form salt. It is also used in making bleach. Chlorine gas is poisonous.

Chlorophyll

The green substance in the leaves and stems of plants that is necessary to produce food for plants from sunlight.

Clepsydra

Literally 'water thief', the Greek word for water clock.

Condensation

The process of changing from a gas to a liquid.

Course

The channel that a flowing body of water follows. These include rivers, streams and canals.

Dehydration

Excessive loss of water from the body or from an organ or body part, due to illness or lack of fluids.

Delta

A triangle of sand and soil deposited at the mouth of some large rivers.

Desalination

The removal of salt from seawater so that it can be used for drinking or irrigation.

Developing world

A poor country whose citizens are mostly agricultural workers seeking to become more advanced economically through industrialisation.

Diarrhoea

Frequent and watery bowel movements (poo).

Dolomite

A sedimentary rock resembling limestone but consisting principally of the mineral dolomite. It is an important source of magnesium and its compounds, and is used as a building material.

Drift

A mass or bank of snow piled up by the wind.

Drought tolerant

A plant that is adapted to surviving in dry or drought conditions.

Earthquake

A shaking or other movement of part of the Earth's surface. It is caused by movement deep within the Earth. Earthquakes can cause the ground to split and buildings to collapse.

Ecosystem

A community of living things, together with their environment.

Electrical charge

The physical property of matter that causes it to experience a force when close to other electrically charged matter. There are two types of electrical charges, called positive and negative. Like forces attract; opposite forces repel.

Erosion

The wearing away of the Earth's surface by wind or water.

Estuary

The wide part of a river's lower course, where it meets the sea.

Evaporation

The process of turning from a liquid into a gas.

Floodplain

The area that would naturally be affected by flooding if a river rises above its banks, or high tides and stormy seas cause flooding in coastal areas.

Fossil fuel

Any carbon-containing fuel formed from the remains of prehistoric plants and animals, eg coal, petroleum and natural gas.

Generator

A machine or device that produces electricity.

Glacier

A large mass of ice formed in cold regions from compacted snow which moves very slowly down a slope or across land.

Gravity

The force by which all objects in the universe are attracted to each other. On Earth, objects fall to the ground because of gravity's pull.

Groundwater

Water located beneath the Earth's surface in gaps between rocks and soil particles.

Gulf Stream

A powerful, warm and fast Atlantic ocean current that originates at the tip of Florida and follows the eastern coastlines of the United States and Newfoundland before crossing the Atlantic Ocean.

Habitat

The natural environment of an animal or plant.

Hailstone

Balls or irregular lumps of ice that fall from the sky as solid precipitation.

Hibernation

A period of sleep through the winter in a den or burrow that help certain animals to save energy.

Hurricane

A powerful storm with heavy rains and winds that blow in a circle at 73 miles per hour or more.

Hydrogen

A very light gas that burns easily and is one of the chemical elements. Hydrogen is the most abundant element in the universe. It combines with oxygen to make water and it is found in all living things.

Hydrogen Sulphide

A colourless gas that smells of rotten eggs. It is heavier than air, very poisonous, corrosive, flammable and explosive.

Immune system

The system of organs, tissues, cells and cell products that protects the body by detecting the presence of, and disabling, disease-causing agents.

Industrial Revolution

The period from the 18th to 19th centuries, when mainly agricultural societies in Europe and America started to become more industrial and city-based.

Irrigation

The supplying of water to land by man-made means.

Jet stream

A narrow band of strong, fast wind several miles above the Earth's surface. It usually flows from west to east.

Landslide

The falling of earth and rocks down a steep slope.

Limestone

A rock formed mostly from shells and other animal remains. It is used in building and in making cement, lime and carbon dioxide.

Lymph

A pale yellowish liquid produced by body tissues. It contains many white blood cells.

Meander

The winding back and forth of a river.

Meltwater

Water that comes from melting snow or ice, eg from glaciers and icebergs.

Micro-organism

Any life form so small that it can only be seen with a microscope. Micro-organisms include bacteria, viruses and many protozoans.

Mineral

A substance formed in the Earth that is not made from the remains of an animal or a plant.

Molecule

The smallest unit of a substance that has all the properties of that substance. A molecule is made up of a single atom or group of atoms.

Nutrient

Anything in food that helps people, animals and plants live and grow.

Ocean current

A horizontal flow of water through the ocean. Warm and cold surface currents redistribute the Sun's heat more evenly around the Earth.

Organ

A part of plants or animals that performs a particular task. The heart, lungs, skin and eyes are all organs.

Oxygen

A colourless, odourless gas that is one of the chemical elements. Oxygen combines with hydrogen to make water. It also makes up about 20% of the Earth's atmosphere. Most living things need oxygen to survive.

Photosynthesis

The process by which a green plant uses sunlight to change water and carbon dioxide into food for itself.

Porous

Having many pores or other small spaces that allow a gas or liquid to pass through.

Precipitation

Snow, sleet, rain or hail that falls to the surface of the Earth from the sky.

Pressure

A steady force acting upon a surface.

Protozoa

A tiny living thing that is similar to an animal but has only one cell or lives in a colony of single cells. Protozoans include amoebas and paramecia.

Sanitation

The practice of keeping people healthy by providing clean living conditions, eg by removing waste and keeping drinking water clean.

Seismograph

A scientific instrument used to measure and record the strength of earthquakes.

Sewer

A large underground pipe that carries off the liquid and solid waste from a town or city.

Snowflake

A single flake of snow.

Sound wave

A longitudinal wave of sound that must pass through a medium, such as air.

Stalactite

A rock formation that looks like an icicle and hangs from the roof of a cave. Stalactites are built up from minerals in dripping water.

Stalagmite

A rock formation that looks like a cone and is built upward from the floor of a cave. Stalagmites are built up from minerals in dripping water.

Starch

A white, tasteless, solid substance found in the seeds, tubers and other parts of plants. Starch is an important constituent of rice, corn, wheat, beans, potatoes and many other vegetable foods.

Succulent

A plant with fleshy leaves or stems that store water, eg cactus

Sundial

A flat, round disc with numbers and a pointer that casts a shadow from the sun. As the shadow moves across the numbers, the sundial shows what time it is.

Surface tension

A property of liquids whereby their surfaces behave as if they were covered by a thin, elastic film.

Thunder

The loud cracking noise or low distant rumble that follows a flash of lightning. Thunder is caused by the violent movement of air masses.

Tide

The change in the height of the surface of oceans and other large bodies of water that happens approximately every twelve hours. Tides are caused by the pull of the moon and sun.

Tissue

A group of cells in a human, animal or plant that are like each other and do similar things.

Tornado

A storm of very strong winds that form a cloud shaped like a funnel. Although it does not last long, a tornado can destroy everything in its path.

Trade route

A route regularly used by traveling traders or merchant ships.

Transpiration

The giving off of water from a surface in the form of vapour. When green plants transpire, water vapour passes from their leaves into the air.

Turbine

An engine driven by a moving fluid, such as water, steam, or air, that pushes against blades or paddles attached to a central shaft.

Uranium

A heavy, silver-white radioactive metal that is one of the chemical elements. It is used to produce nuclear energy.

Volcanic eruption

The sudden violent discharge of steam and volcanic material from a volcano.

Water Cycle

The process by which water on the Earth evaporates, then condenses in the atmosphere, and then returns to Earth in the form of precipitation.

Water main

The main pipe in an underground system of pipes that carries fresh water.

Waterlogged

Completely soaked or filled with water.

Weather front

The area where two air masses with different temperatures and densities collide, but do not mix. The collision often causes storms and changeable weather.

Wetland

Low-lying land saturated with moisture, such as a marsh or swamp.

Information obtained from:

Kids Wordsmyth: kids.wordsmyth.net

The Free Dictionary: www.thefreedictionary.com

Wikipedia: en.wikipedia.org