

Glossary

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aquifer

An area of rock underneath the surface of the Earth which absorbs and holds water.

agriculture

Another word for farming. It includes both growing and harvesting crops and raising animals, or livestock.

arable

Another word for crops, or (of land) used or suitable for growing crops.

condensation

The process of changing water from a gas to a liquid.

crops

Plants that are grown on a large scale commercially, especially a cereal, fruit, or vegetable.

drought

A long period of low rainfall, leading to a shortage of water.

ecosystems

Communities of living things together with the environment that they inhabit and depend on.

erosion

The process by which the surface of the earth is worn away by the action of water, glaciers, wind, waves, etc.

evaporation

Changing from a liquid into a vapour.

fertile

Capable of producing abundant vegetation or crops.

fertiliser

Substances added to soil to help plants grow.

groundwater

Underground water.

hydrosphere

All the waters on the Earth's surface, such as lakes and seas.

impermeable

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Does not allow water to pass through.

irrigation

The artificial watering of land that does not get enough rainfall.

leach

Drain down through the soil.

molecule

A group of atoms bonded together.

permeable

allows fluid to pass through

sustainability

Using natural resources without destroying the ecological balance of an area.

water cycle - also known as the hydrological cycle

Describes the exchange of water in every form between Earth's systems.

water intake

Part of a river or canal etc where water is taken for use in such things as irrigation of hydroelectrical generation.

water vapour

Water in its gaseous state. Water that is heated turns from a liquid to a gas

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