

**natural sources**

**natural places where water is found  
on, below, and above Earth**

**saltwater**

**water that has salt in it**

**fresh water**

**water that does not contain salt**

**hydrosphere**

**all the water on Earth**

**potable**

**clean water ready to be used**

**solid**

**state of matter where particles have  
little motion; frozen water**

**liquid**

**state of matter where particles move  
slowly; spreads to fit container**

**gas**

**state of matter where particles  
move quickly and spread out**

**molecule**

**the smallest unit of a substance**  
*ex: a water molecule is the small unit  
that is still water*

**gaseous**

**describes something in gas form**

**freezing point**

**temperature at which a liquid  
turns into a solid  
(32°F)**

**melting point**

**temperature at which a solid  
turns into a liquid  
(33°F - 111°F)**

**boiling point**

**temperature at which a liquid  
changes into a vapor  
(212°F)**

**deposition**

**water changes directly from a  
vapor to a solid**

**sublimation**

**water changes directly from a  
solid to a vapor**

**water cycle**

**continuous movement of water  
between the Earth and its  
atmosphere**

**evaporation**

**the process of water changing from a liquid to a gas**

**water vapor**

**water in gas form**

**condense**

**to change from a gas to a liquid**

**condensation**

**process of water vapor changing to liquid water**

**clouds**

**made up of tiny water drops and dust particles**

**condensation nuclei**

**the particles (dust, smoke, pollen) that combine with water drops to form clouds**

**rain**

**liquid precipitation**

**snow**

**ice crystals; frozen precipitation**

**sleet**

**small balls of ice; frozen precipitation**

**hail**

**large balls of layered ice; common in thunderstorms**

**precipitation**

**water falling from the sky in any form**

**runoff**

**water that flows over the surface of the Earth**

**watershed**

**an area of land that separates waters flowing to different rivers, basins, or seas**

**collection**

**the process of water sinking into the ground or running off**

**infiltration**

**process of water soaking through the soil into layers of rock**

**percolation**

**process of a liquid slowly passing through a filter**

**aquifer**

**layers of rock where water is  
stored underground**

**groundwater**

**water stored in layers of rock  
underground**

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