

Agricultural pollution- pollution from rural areas where few people live

Algae- a general term for small, chlorophyll-containing plants such as seaweed or pond scum

Ammonia- a colorless, pungent gas composed of nitrogen and hydrogen from animal waste

Aquatic – living or growing in water

Aquifer – an underground water system made of porous rock and sand

Atmospheric Pollution- pollution from small particles that are carried in the air

Chemical Pollution- pollution that is usually caused by improper disposing of poisonous materials

Condensation – when water vapor (gaseous water) forms droplets of water in the atmosphere, making clouds. The change in water from gas to liquid form.

Confining layer- a place in the aquifer where impermeable rock covers permeable rock

Ecology - the study of how living things relate to the environment

Ecosystem – a natural unit of living and non-living parts that interact to produce a stable system

Evaporation – the change in water from liquid to gas

Eutrophication- When large amounts of nutrients enter the water and cause an increase in the amount of oxygen

Exotic Plant – A plant that is transported from its place of origin and introduced into a new environment

Groundwater – water that percolates through the surface and is retained in underlying rock and soil.

Groundwater contamination- when any harmful substance enters the water underground and makes it unsuitable for use

Groundwater model- a representation of the underground water system

Groundwater system- holds the rock layers that make up an aquifer and the water that is stored and transported through the openings in the rocks

Herbicides- chemicals used to kill weeds

Hydrologic Cycle - the passage of water between reservoirs (oceans and atmosphere) by groundwater percolation, evaporation, condensation, and precipitation.

Impermeable- something that does not allow liquid to run through it

Native Plant – A plant that lives and thrives in its place of origin

Natural Pollution- pollution that occurs when water flows over rocks and soil, washing off amounts of harmful elements and depositing them into rivers and lakes.

Nitrate- a compound containing salt or ester of nitric acid

Nitrifying bacteria- bacteria that recycles the ammonia produced from the excretion of fish and decay of plant and animal matter

Nitrite- A salt or ester of nitric acid

Nitrogen- A colorless, odorless gas that is a non-metallic element which makes up almost four fifths of the air

Non- point source- when the point of the pollution is difficult to identify

Organic Pollution- pollution that occurs when living things decompose

Percolation – when precipitation is absorbed into the ground and moves down through the soil

Permeable- ability of something to allow liquids to run through it

Pesticides- chemical substances applied to plants to keep insects away

Phosphates- Phosphorous can come from natural sources such as phosphate-containing rocks and human sources such as fertilizers, pesticides, detergents, and industrial wastes.

Photosynthesis - the process by which plants convert energy from the sun into food

Phytoplankton - single celled algae

Point source- when the source of the pollutant is easily identified

Pollution- harmful or foreign substances that enter the environment

Pond – freshwater ecosystem that forms in low-lying areas and supports the surrounding wildlife

Porous Rock – a rock with many spaces between grains.

Precipitation – water that is released from the atmosphere as rain, snow, hail, etc.

Proteins- any of a group of complex nitrogenous compounds containing amino acids, necessary for the growth and repair of animal tissue

Sediment Pollution- pollution that occurs when loose soil is carried into bodies of water by rain

Spring – water returning to the surface after being absorbed by the ground

Stormwater runoff- rainwater that does not soak into the ground and carries pollution into bodies of water

Surface Runoff – precipitation that drains across the land into lakes, streams, or rivers

Surface Water - water that lays on the earth's surface. Surface water includes water in rivers, lakes, streams, creeks, ponds, and wetlands

Transpiration – the process by which water is released from plants leaves

Urban pollution- pollution from cities where many people live together in a small area

Water pollution- when foreign substances enter the water cycle and harm living organisms

Watershed - an area of land over which water flows to reach a common body of water such as a lake or pond

Well- a hole that is drilled into the aquifer

Zooplankton – very small aquatic animals