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**absorb** to take in or soak up

**atmosphere** layer of air that surrounds Earth

**cloud** mass of tiny water droplets or ice crystals in the air

**condensation** process of changing from gas to liquid when heat is taken away

**desalination** process of removing salts from ocean water

**estuary** area where a river meets the ocean and fresh water mixes with salt water

**evaporation** process of changing from liquid to gas when heat is added

**freeze** to turn from a liquid into a solid when heat is taken away

**glacier** huge, heavy mass of slowly moving ice

**groundwater** fresh water that is stored in the ground

**humidity** amount of water vapor in the air

**iceberg** floating chunk of ice that broke off an ice cap or glacier

**ice cap** thick sheet of ice covering a large area

**irrigation** process of bringing water to dry places for growing crops

**lake** large body of water surrounded by land

**melt** to turn from a solid into a liquid when heat is added

**ocean** large body of salt water that covers almost three-fourths of Earth; the world ocean is divided into the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, and Arctic Oceans

**photosynthesis** process by which green plants use the energy in sunlight to make their own food

**porous** full of tiny pores or openings and able to absorb liquid

**precipitation** any form of water that falls from clouds to Earth, such as rain, snow, sleet, or hail

**resource** something from nature that living things use

**river** fresh water flowing in a channel

**runoff** water on Earth’s land that is carried by gravity to rivers, lakes, and oceans

**surface water** water on Earth’s surface in lakes, ponds, and rivers

**transpiration** process by which water evaporates through tiny holes in a plant’s leaves

**water conservation** process of saving water

**water cycle** constant movement of water from Earth to the atmosphere and back to Earth; water evaporates, condenses to form clouds, and falls to Earth as precipitation

**water table** highest level of soil and rock that is completely filled with groundwater

**water treatment plant** place where water is treated to make it safe to drink

**water vapor** water in the form of a gas

**weather** condition of the atmosphere at a certain place and time