

Water Cycle- The cycle that collects, purifies, and redistributes the Earth's water.

Atmosphere- The mixture of gases surrounding the Earth that is held down by the force of gravity.

Evaporation- The change of state from a liquid to a gas.

Sublimation- The change of state from a solid directly to a gas or from a gas directly to a solid.

Boiling Point- The temperature at which a liquid begins to boil and turns into a gas.

Condensation- The process of changing from a gas or vapour into a liquid.

Precipitation- Water that has gathered in the clouds and falls to earth as rain, hail, sleet, or snow.

Watershed- An area surrounded by high land in which all water runs to a common destination such as a river.

Glacier- A large mass of ice and snow that slowly flows over land.

Continental Divide- The ridge of land running north/south across North or South America that separates waters flowing into the Pacific Ocean from those flowing into the Atlantic Ocean.

Tides- The rising and falling of the ocean level due to the different gravitational pulls of the sun and the moon.

Polar Icecaps- Large glacier caps of ice covering the north and south poles of the Earth.

Water Table- The level below the earth's surface at which the ground becomes saturated with water.

Ocean Currents- Large, regular movements of water in the ocean such as the Gulf Stream.

Geological Features- Features on the Earth's surface or Ocean bottom such as mountains.

Saltwater- Water that contains a high concentration of dissolved salts, such as ocean water.

Ground Water- Water that soaks into the ground and is held in the cracks in underground rocks and spaces between grains of soil.

Marine- Relating to water or to the ocean, such as marine life or marine environments.

Salinity- The concentration or amount of dissolved in water.

Climate- Monthly and yearly conditions such as temperatures, precipitation, and wind common to a region over a period of time.

Fresh Water- Water that contains a low concentration of dissolved salts.

Great Lakes- The five large lakes on the border between Ontario and the United States, including Lake Ontario, Erie, Huron, Michigan, and Superior.