



**Agriculture** – The practice of growing crops and raising livestock.

**Aqueduct** – A canal or series of large pipes that connect the source of water to its final destination.

**Aquifer** – An underground layer of rock, sand or gravel that holds enough groundwater so that it can naturally provide water to streams, or be extracted by wells for human use.

**Beef** – A type of red meat; meat from a cow, heifer, bull or steer.



**Condensation** – The process where vapor changes into liquid.

**Conservation** – The protection and preservation of nature and natural resources.



**Contaminate** – To make something impure, unclean, or polluted.



**Dam** – A barrier that stops the flow of water in a river so that the water can collect in a large area like a reservoir.

**Desalinate** – To remove salt and minerals from seawater, or saltwater, in order to create potable freshwater.



**Distillation** – The process of purifying liquid by evaporation and condensation.

**Drought** – An extended period of unusually dry weather when there is little precipitation such as rain, sleet, hail or snow.

**Ecosystem** – A complex, natural unit of living things like plants, animals and micro-organisms that function together in their natural environment such as the desert, forest, river, or coral reef.



**Evaporation** – The process in which a liquid is changed into a vapor, usually by the sun's energy, or by heating.

**Filter** – A device such as a screen, or a substance like sand or charcoal through which liquid, gas or smoke is passed through to remove impurities.

**Fisheries** – Farms for raising fish.



**Food Chain** – The natural order of how organisms get food. Ex: A cat eats a bird, which eats a spider, which eats a fly.

**Freshwater** – Water that is not salty. Naturally found in glaciers, lakes, rivers, streams and aquifers.

**Gallon** – A standard U.S. unit for measuring liquid. Equals 128 ounces, 16 cups, 8 pints, or 4 quarts.

**Groundwater** – Water naturally stored beneath the earth's surface, which flows through tiny openings between pieces of soil and rock. Can also be found in fractures within hard rock.

**Hetch Hetchy** – A word from the Miwok tribe that means "grass with edible seeds."

**Hetch Hetchy Reservoir** – A main source of high quality freshwater for San Francisco and surrounding areas.



Water that fills the reservoir comes from the Tuolumne River, which is fed by snow-melt from the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range.

**Hetch Hetchy Valley** – The valley in Yosemite National Park that was flooded with water in the 1930's to create the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

**Irrigate** – To water land, through artificial methods like sprinklers, spraying, or drip systems, in order to grow plants such as grass, trees or crops.

**Livestock** – Animals raised for food such as cows, pigs and chickens.



**Low Flow** – A plumbing term.

Means the amount of water flowing through pipes and faucets is reduced; usually connected to sinks, showers and toilets.

**Natural Resource** – Something that comes from nature and is used or turned into the things we want, and need to survive.

Includes sun, wind, water, plants, petroleum and minerals.



**Pesticide** – A chemical used to kill insects. Often used when growing crops.

**Petroleum** – Crude oil that comes from deep underground and is turned into a variety of things like gasoline, plastics, chemicals and even fabric.

**Percolation** – When a liquid passes through a filter or porous substance like sand or soil.



**Pollutant** – A chemical or material that dirties or contaminates air, land or water.



**Potable** – Suitable for drinking.

**Porous** – Permitting the movement of fluid or gas, by way of a tiny opening.

**Precipitation** – The formation of rain, sleet, hail or snow from moisture in air.



**Recycled Water** – Highly treated wastewater that has been purified through many different levels of filtering and treatment. Can be used for non-potable uses such as irrigating parks and golf courses, or flushing toilets.

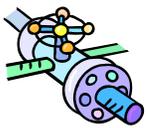


**Replenish** – To refill or restock something that has been depleted or used up.

**Reservoir** – A large area like a lake or a big tank that collects water in one place so it can be stored for later use.

**Reverse Osmosis** – The process of using membranes or tiny filters to create freshwater from saltwater. High pressure is needed to pass freshwater through the filter, leaving the salts and minerals behind.

**Saltwater** – Water that contains salt and other minerals. Found throughout seas and oceans. Also called seawater.



**Sewer System** – Huge series of underground pipes that carries wastewater, or sewage, to the Water Pollution Control Plant.

**Stormwater** – The rain that falls on streets and sidewalks and goes down storm drains.

**Surface Run-Off** – The water that flows over the surface of the ground when it is not absorbed into the soil.

**Toxic** – Poisonous

**Transpiration** – The giving off of moisture, as through the pores of skin, or parts of plants; the passage of water from the leaves of plants into the air.



**Vapor** – An invisible gas that can condense into a liquid or solid. When water vapor condenses into tiny droplets, it appears as steam or mist.

**Wastewater** – Water that has been used; all water that leaves pipes from our homes, businesses and storm drains.

**Water Cycle** – The circulation of the Earth's moisture in all its stages; the cycle of water movement from the atmosphere to the earth and back again through the following steps: evaporation, condensation, precipitation, accumulation.

**Water Footprint** – The total amount of water used by an individual, business, city or country; the total amount of water needed to grow, make or manufacture an item.



**Water Pollution Control Plant** – The place wastewater goes to be filtered, cleaned and treated. Treated water gets returned to the bay or ocean, or is used as recycled water.



**Water Sources** – The places where water comes from, such as lakes, rivers, streams, aquifers and reservoirs.

**Wildlife Habitats** – Natural areas or ecosystems where wild plants and animals live.

