

Environmental Science

Chapter 11

11.1 Water Resources

- Water dissolves nutrients and distributes them to cells, regulates body temperature, supports structures, and removes waste products.
- This water evaporates from moist surfaces, falls as rain or snow, passes through living organisms, and returns to the ocean in a process known as the **hydrologic cycle**.
- Because water and sunlight are unevenly distributed around the globe, water resources are very uneven.
- The distribution of water is often described in terms of interacting compartments in which water resides.
- Of the 2.4% of all water that is fresh, nearly 90% is tied up in glaciers, ice caps, and snowfields.
- Groundwater zones
 - **Zone of aeration** Shallow layer of soil containing both air and water.
 - **Zone of saturation** Lower soil layer with pores filled with water.
 - **Water table** Top of zone of saturation that supplies most wells.
- Geological Layers that Contain Water Are Called **Aquifers**
- The atmosphere contains only 0.001% of the total water supply, but it is the most important mechanism for redistributing water around the world.

11.2 How Much Water Do We Use?

- **Water withdrawn** is the total amount of water taken from a water body.
- Domestic Water Use Accounts for Only About 6% of World Water Use

11.3 Dealing with Water Scarcity

- The World Health Organization considers an average of (264,000 gallons) per person per year to be a necessary amount of water for modern domestic, industrial, and agricultural uses.
- In the United States, the worst drought--so far--in economic and social terms, was in the 1930s when dry years and poor soil conservation resulted in the "**dust bowl**".
- **Subsidence**, or sinking of the ground surface, follows.
- Another consequence of aquifer depletion is **saltwater intrusion**.
- A **watershed**, or catchment, is all the land drained by a stream or river.
- Planting Native Vegetation Saves Water

11.4 Water Pollutants

- Any physical, biological, or chemical change in water quality that adversely affects living organisms or makes water unsuitable for desired uses can be considered **pollution**.
- **Point sources** discharge pollution from specific locations, such as drain pipes, ditches, or sewer outfalls such as factories, power plants, sewage treatment plants, underground coal mines, and oil wells.
- **Nonpoint sources** have no specific location where they discharge into a particular body of water, including runoff from farm fields and feedlots, golf courses, lawns and gardens, construction sites, logging areas, roads, streets, and parking lots.

Environmental Science Chapter 11 Vocabulary

S Ben Porath



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