

## Unit: 2. EARTH'S WATER

### VOCABULARY

adhesion	water's attraction to other substances
aquifer	underground layer of permeable rock from which ground water can be removed
cohesion	water's attraction to other water molecules
compound	two or more elements joined together to create a new substance
crest	highest part of a wave
desalination	process by which salt is removed from saltwater
downwelling	downward movement of surface ocean water caused by wind
evaporation	process by which liquid water changes into a gas
fetch	distance over which wind blows without interruption or change of direction
firn	intermediate stage between snow and ice
gyre	large, rotating current loops caused by the Coriolis effect
ice cap	large, dome-shaped mass of ice
infiltration	process by which precipitation soaks into the ground
impermeable	not allowing a fluid to pass through
moraine	large area of rock and sediment left by a glacier
permeable	allowing a fluid to pass through

polarity	molecular condition in which one end has a slightly positive charge and the other a slightly negative charge
porosity	amount of air space between soil or rock particles
precipitation	the release of water from the atmosphere
salinity	measure of dissolved minerals and salts in water
scarcity	state of not having enough of something
solvent	substance in which another substance is dissolved
sublimation	process by which solid water (ice, snow) changes directly into a gas
surface tension	cohesion of water molecules at the surface of a body of water
thermocline	transitional layer between the mixed surface layer and the deep water layer in the ocean
thermohaline circulation	movement of deep ocean water driven by differences in temperature, salinity, and density
tide	alternate rising and falling of the ocean caused by the gravitational pull of the moon and the Sun
transpiration	release of water vapor into the air by plants
tributary	a small creek or stream that feeds a larger river or lake
trough	lowest part of a wave
upwelling	upward movement of deeper, colder ocean water to the surface caused by wind
water table	top of the saturated zone in ground water
watershed	area of land where all the draining water goes into the same river system