

AQUIFER

Question: What is an underground body of rock, sand or gravel which can contain or transmit water?

Follow-up: Did you know there are 9 major aquifers and 22 minor aquifers under the state of Texas?

POLLUTION

Question: What is the contamination of air, water, or soil by substances that are harmful to living organisms?

Follow-up: The most common type of pollutant into our lakes, rivers and streams is sediment. Sediment is eroded soil that is carried away by water.



RIVER

Question: What is a large stream?

Follow-up: Can anyone name one of the major rivers in Texas?

DROUGHT

Question: What is an extended period of below-normal rainfall?

Follow-up: This is a picture of a lake that dried up because of a major drought that happened in 2011.



FLOOD

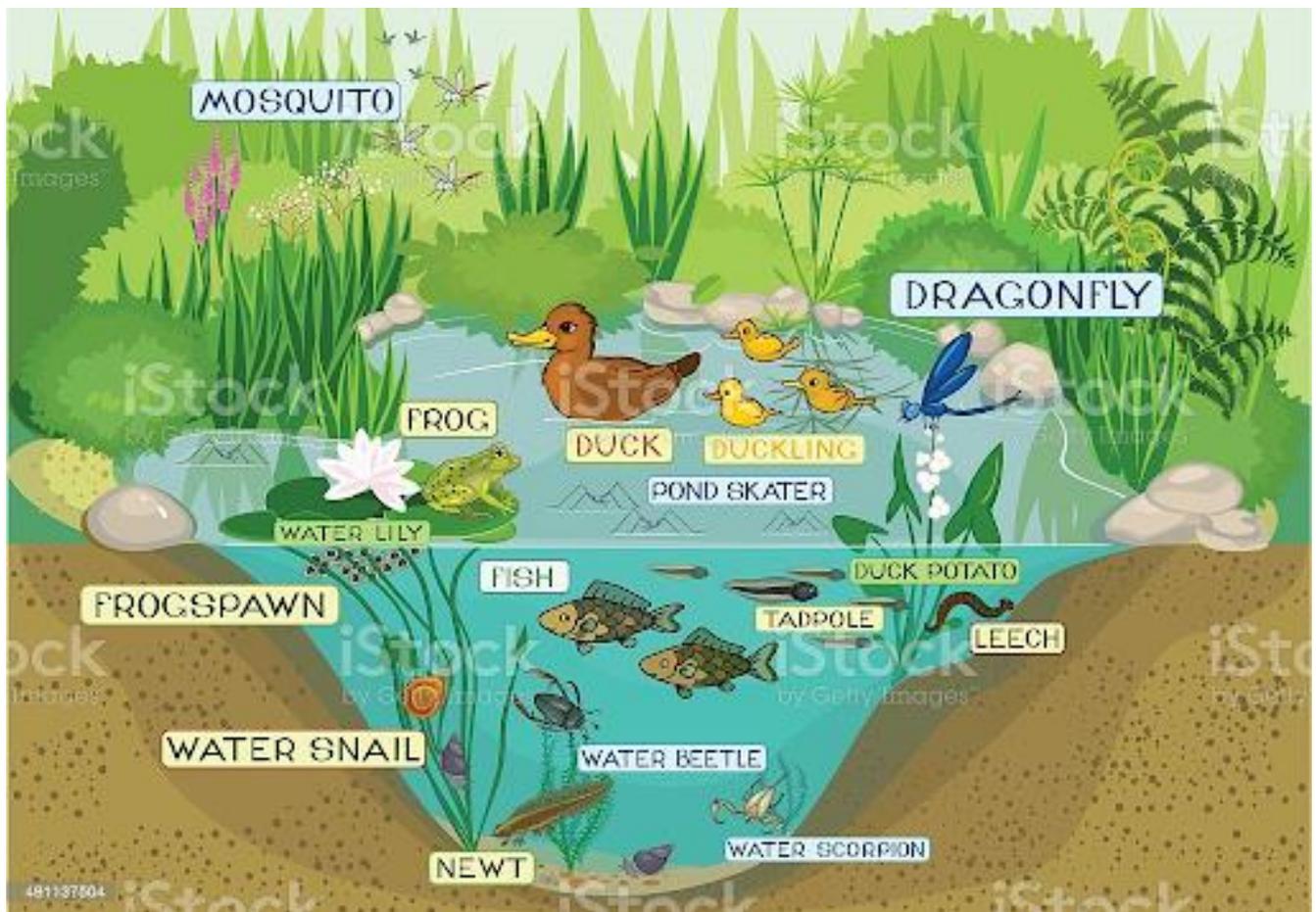
Question: What is an overflow of water onto normally dry land?

Follow-up: What is a flash flood? Answer: A flash flood occurs during a heavy rainstorm when the water does not have time to drain or infiltrate into the soil.

ECOSYSTEM

Question: What is a community of organisms together with their physical environment?

Follow-up: What are signs of a healthy ecosystem? Answer: A healthy ecosystem has a diversity of plant and animal life.



EVAPORATION

Question: What is the process of changing water from a liquid state into vapor?

Follow-up: Is there more evaporation in the summer or winter? Answer: Summer

FRESHWATER

Question: What is water that has very little salt content?

Follow-up: What are major sources of freshwater? Answer: Rain and snow. Lakes, rivers, streams, glaciers, etc.



GROUNDWATER

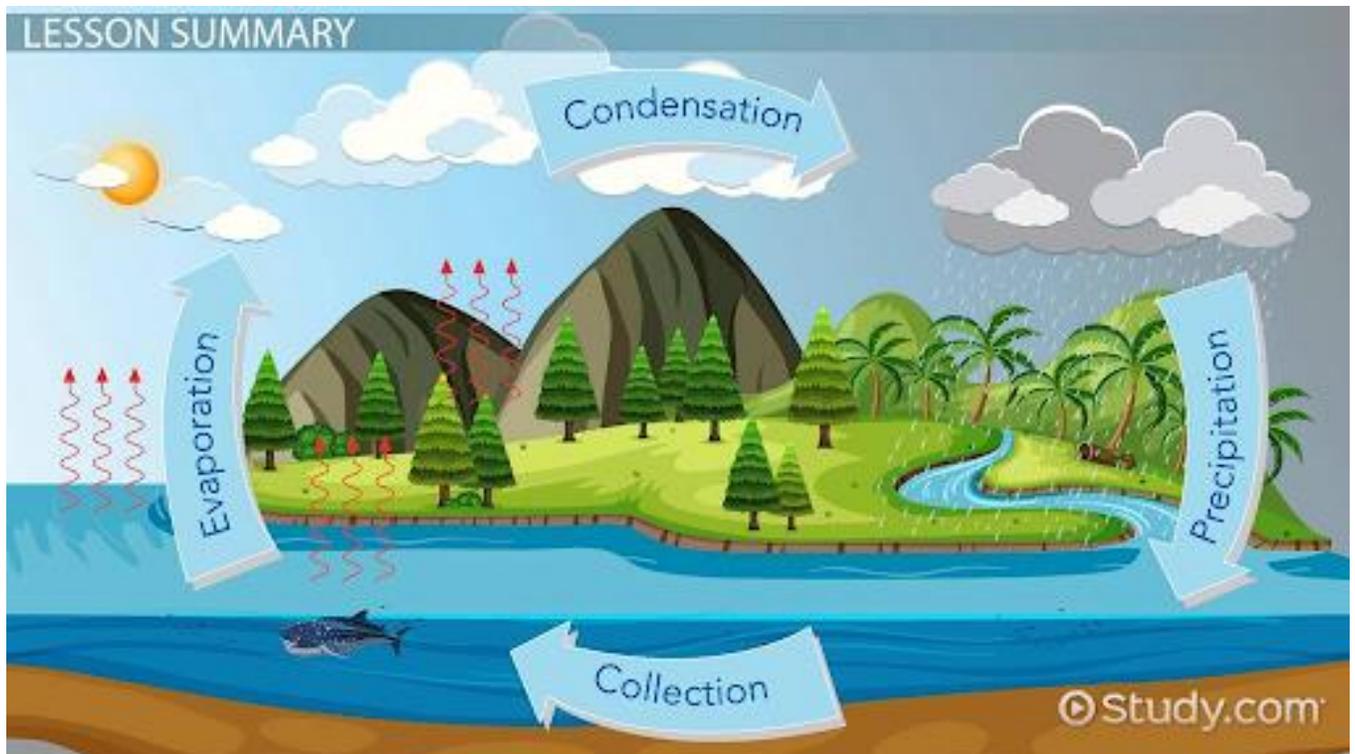
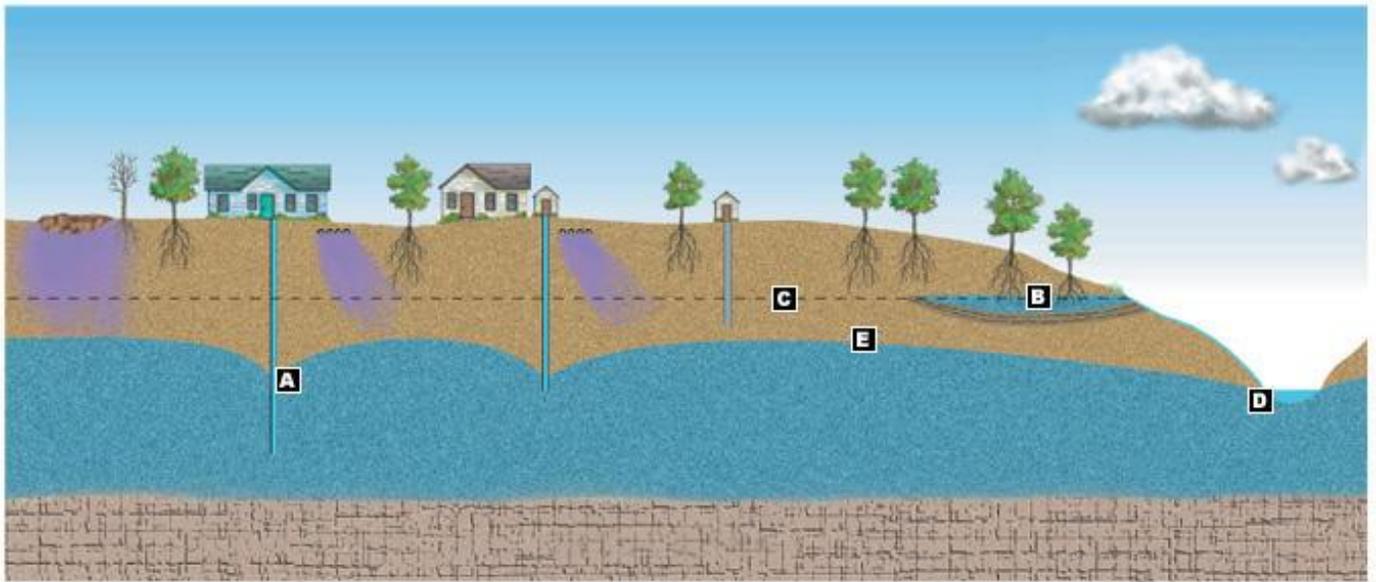
Question: What is water that flows beneath the Earth's surface in saturated soil or aquifers?

Follow-up: Did you know that more than 80 percent of groundwater in Texas is for agriculture?

WATER CYCLE

Question: What is the process by which water circulates between Earth's oceans, atmosphere, and land?

Follow-up: Where does the water cycle begin and end? Trick question – it is a cycle with no beginning or ending. This is like asking which came first, the chicken or the egg.



CONDENSATION

Question: What is the process of changing water from a vapor into a liquid?

Follow-up: In your house, where do you see condensation happen most?

Answer: Bathroom

PRECIPITATION

Question: What is a name for water that condenses in the atmosphere and falls to Earth as rain, snow, or sleet?

Follow-up: Most precipitation in Texas comes in what form? Answer:
Rain



STREAM

Question: What is a body of flowing water?

Follow-up: Streams are just small rivers. Do you have a stream near you?

IRRIGATION

Question: What is the application of water to the soil to help grow agricultural crops and water lawns?

Follow-up: What time of year do we need the most irrigation? Why?

Answer: Summer, often not enough rain to meet plant water needs.



LAKE

Question: What is a large body of standing water?

Follow-up: Lakes form at low points in a watershed or when a dam is installed on a river to restrict water flow.

NATURAL RESOURCE

Question: This term describes something found in nature that is useful to humans?

Follow-up: Water is considered the most important natural resource. What are other natural resources? Answer: Water. Other resources include soil, trees, air, etc.



OCEAN

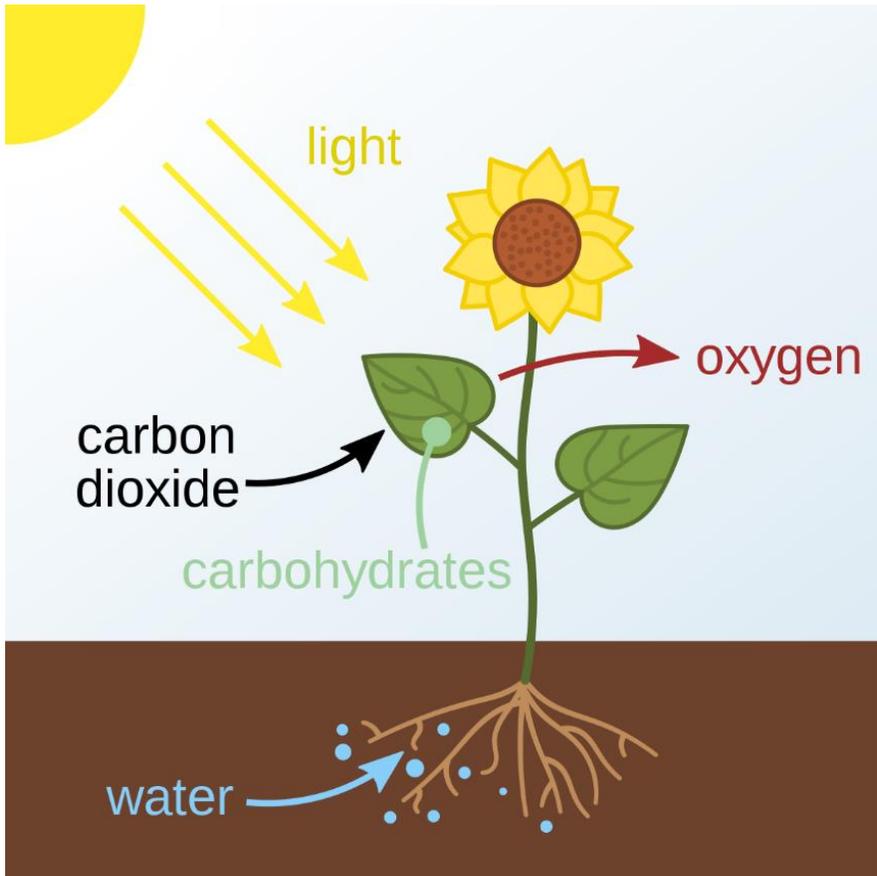
Question: What is a very large expanse of sea?

Follow-up: Did you know that about 97 percent of earth's water is in oceans?

PHOTOSYNTHESIS

Question: What is a process by which plants, algae, and many species of bacteria convert energy captured from the sun into chemical energy that can be used to fuel the organism's activities?

Follow-up: What gas do plants produce? Answer: Oxygen. Why is this important? Answer: Because animals need it to survive.



RAIN

Question: What is a form of precipitation in which moisture condensed from the atmosphere falls visibly in liquid drops?

Follow-up: Rainfall in Texas varies from more than 60 inches per year in east Texas to less than 10 inches per year in far west Texas.

WATER DROP

Question: What is a small volume of water where even though they're tiny, every bit matters?

Follow-up: One drop of water can be teeming with life! For example, a single drop of ocean water can contain millions of bacteria or viruses, fish eggs, baby crabs, plankton or small worms.



RUNOFF

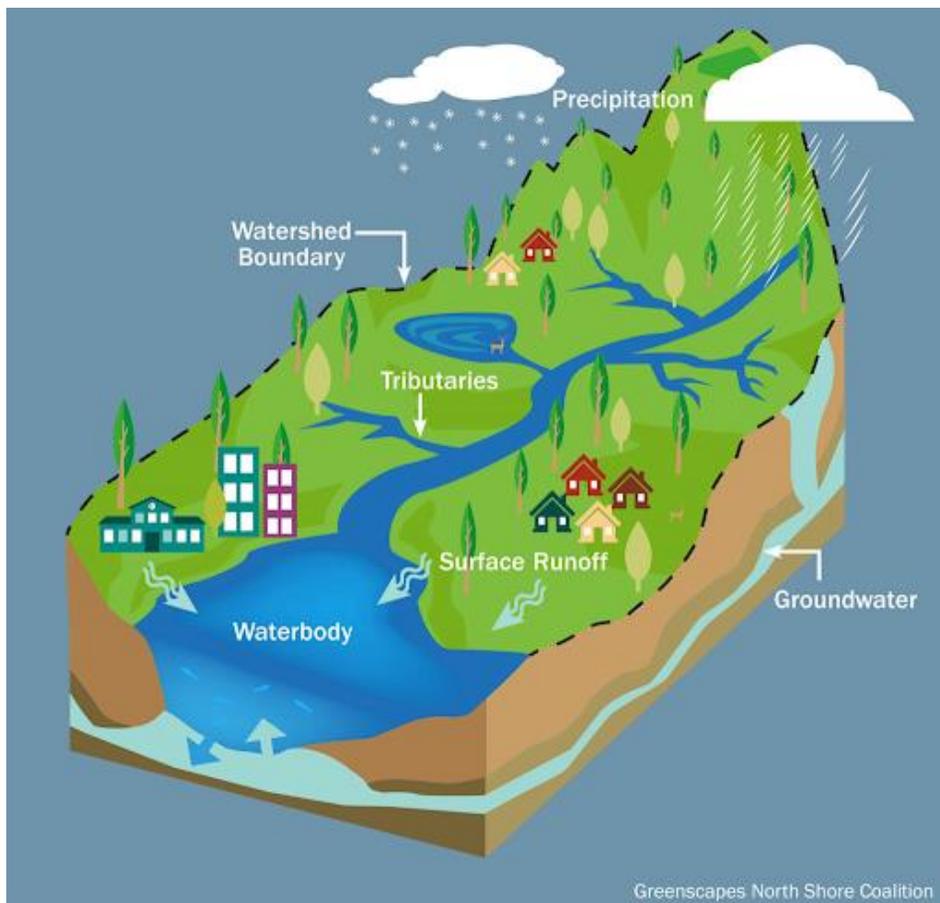
Question: What is precipitation, snow melt, or other water that flows on the surface of land but is not absorbed into the soil?

Follow-up: Why is there so much runoff in cities? Answer: Because there are so much concrete and other surfaces that do not allow water to infiltrate into the soil.

WATERSHED

Question: What is all the land from which water drains into a specific body of water?

Follow-up: Think of a watershed as a bathtub. When water falls into a bathtub it all flows to the drain – the lowest point in the bathtub.



TOILET

Question: What appliance uses 40% of a normal household's water use and can be found in the bathroom?

Follow-up: Let's say your toilet uses 2 gallons of water per flush. If there are 4 people in your household which flush 4 times per day, how much water would be used? Answer: $2 \times 4 \times 4 = 32$ gallons per day.

FAUCET

Question: What is something you should turn off when brushing your teeth or hand-washing dishes?

Follow-up: Have you seen the faucets that only turn on when it senses your hand is near it?



SPRINKLER

Question: What is used to water your plants in your yard? It is mostly used in the summertime.

Follow-up: Did you know that most of the water used in the summer in cities is by sprinkler systems – people watering lawns and sports fields?

DISHWASHER

Question: What is something that you should run in the kitchen only when it's full? This appliance uses less water than hand-washing dishes.

Follow-up: Dishwashers have become very water efficient, using less water than they did in the past.



CORN

Question: This cereal grain was first domesticated by indigenous peoples in southern Mexico about 10,000 years ago. It is a common crop in Texas and usually requires a lot of irrigation during the growing season.

Follow-up: Did you know that each cob of corn usually contains 800 kernels that are arranged in 16 rows?

COTTON

Question: Fiber from this crop is used to make clothing. Its seeds are sometimes used to feed cattle.

Follow-up: You may think of cotton only being white. In fact, early varieties of cotton had tan, red, green, pink and brown fibers.



COW

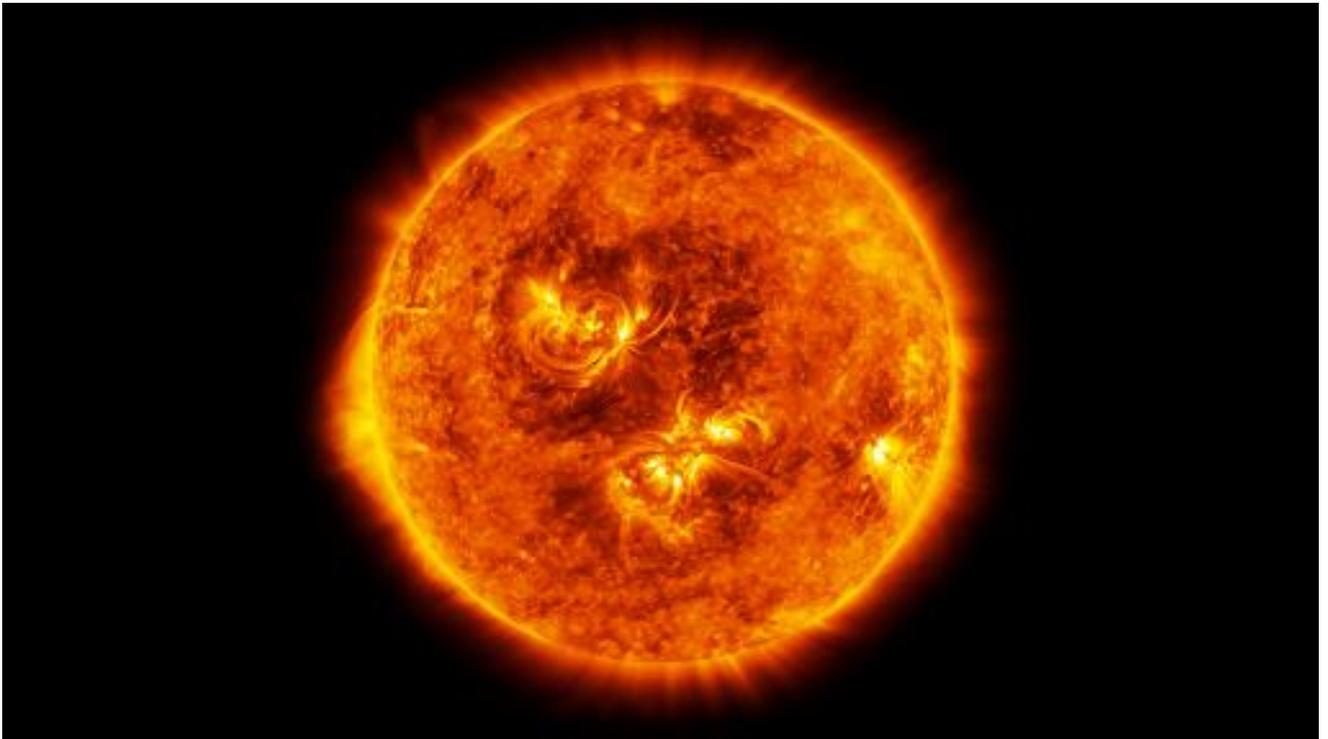
Question: This land mammal can consume between 30 and 50 gallons of water per day.

Follow-up: What breed of cow is shown in the picture? Answer: Holstein

SUN

Question: What is the very bright star that heats up Earth and provides energy to our planet?

Follow-up: Light from the Sun, traveling at 186,000 miles per hour, takes about 8 minutes to get to Earth.



ICE

Question: What is the solid form of water, produced by freezing?

Follow-up: When it freezes, water expands about 9 percent.

FISH

Question: What is a limbless cold-blooded vertebrate animal that has gills and fins and lives in water?

Follow-up: There are approximately 250 species of freshwater fish in Texas. Can you name one? Answers: Bass, crappie, catfish, sunfish, etc.



PRODUCERS

Question: What is an organism that is able to produce its own food from non-living materials, and which serves as a food source for other organisms in a food chain?

Follow-up: Examples of producers include algae, phytoplankton and some kinds of bacteria.

BATHTUB

Question: In the bathroom, this can be hold up to 70 gallons of water?

Follow-up: What is the most popular alternative to bathtubs? Answer:
Showers



LITTER

Question: What is trash, such as paper, cans, and bottles, that is left in an open or public place?

Follow-up: Who is responsible for keeping litter out of our streams, rivers, lakes and oceans? Answer: Everyone

NATIVE PLANTS

Question: What are plants indigenous to a given area that are well-suited for that environment?

Follow-up: What do we call plants that are not native to the area, but move in and take over? Answer: Invasive plants



HABITAT

Question: What is the natural environment in which an organism normally lives, including the surroundings and other physical conditions needed to sustain it?

Follow-up: What kind of things can destroy a habitat? Answer: Construction, plowing for agriculture, pollution, invasive species, etc.

AGRICULTURE

Question: What is the practice of farming, including cultivation of the soil for the growing of crops and the rearing of animals to provide food, wool, and other products?

Follow-up: Did you know there are nearly 250,000 farms and ranches in Texas?



TURBIDITY

Question: This measurement describes the cloudiness of a body of water?

Follow-up: Just because water is clear does not mean that it is safe to drink.

HURRICANE

What is a rapidly rotating storm system characterized by a low-pressure center, a closed low-level atmospheric circulation, strong winds, and a spiral arrangement of thunderstorms that produce heavy rain or squalls?

Follow-up: Hurricanes are especially dangerous because of the extremely high winds and major flooding.



TORNADO

Question: What is a mobile, destructive vortex of violently rotating winds having the appearance of a funnel-shaped cloud and advancing beneath a large storm system?

Follow-up: On May 11, 1953 the deadliest tornado in Texas history struck shortly after 4 pm on the day after Mother's Day in 1953. It killed 114 people and injured 597.

HAIL

Question: What is a type of precipitation in which pellets of frozen rain fall in showers?

Follow-up: The largest officially recognized hailstone on record to have been 'captured' in the U.S. fell near Vivian, South Dakota on July 23, 2010. It measured 8 inches in diameter and weighed nearly 2 pounds.



SNOW

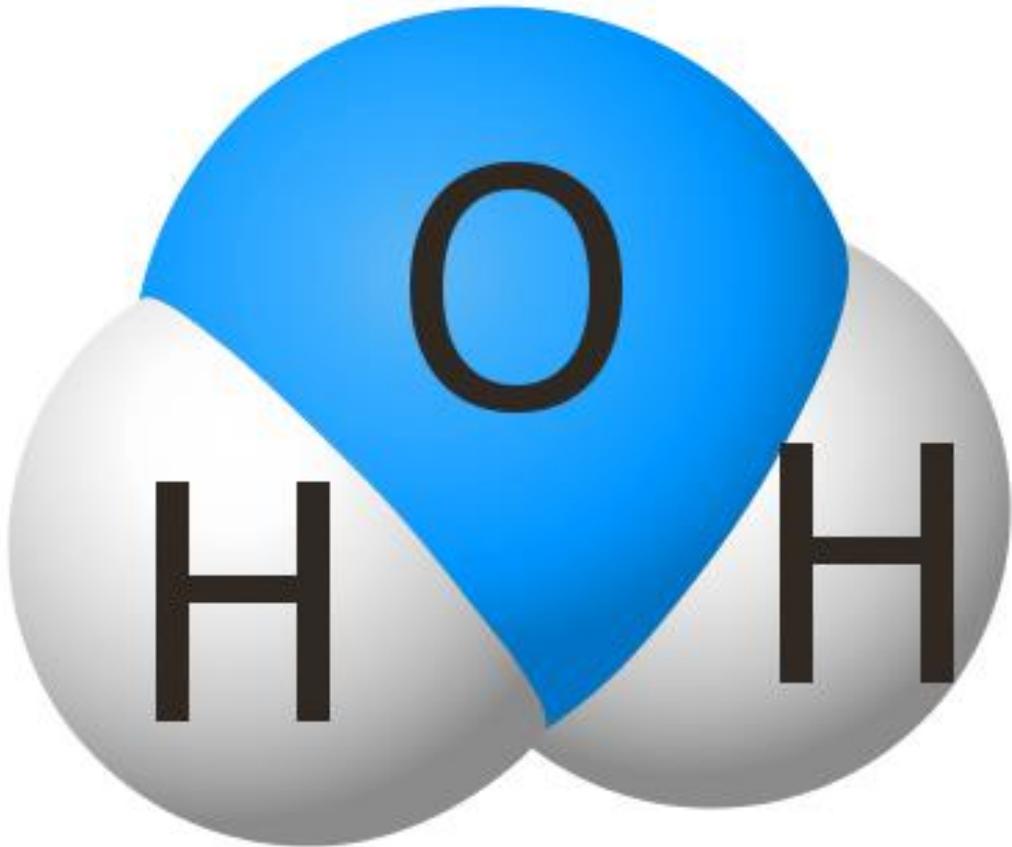
Question: What is a form of precipitation in which atmospheric water vapor freezes into ice crystals and falls in light white flakes?

Follow-up: The greatest amount of snow recorded in a 24-hour period in Texas occurred December 21-22, 1929 in Cleburne where in snowed 26 inches.

H₂O

Question: What is the chemical formula of water?

Follow-up: What does the “H” and “O” stand for? Hydrogen and Oxygen.



WATER QUALITY

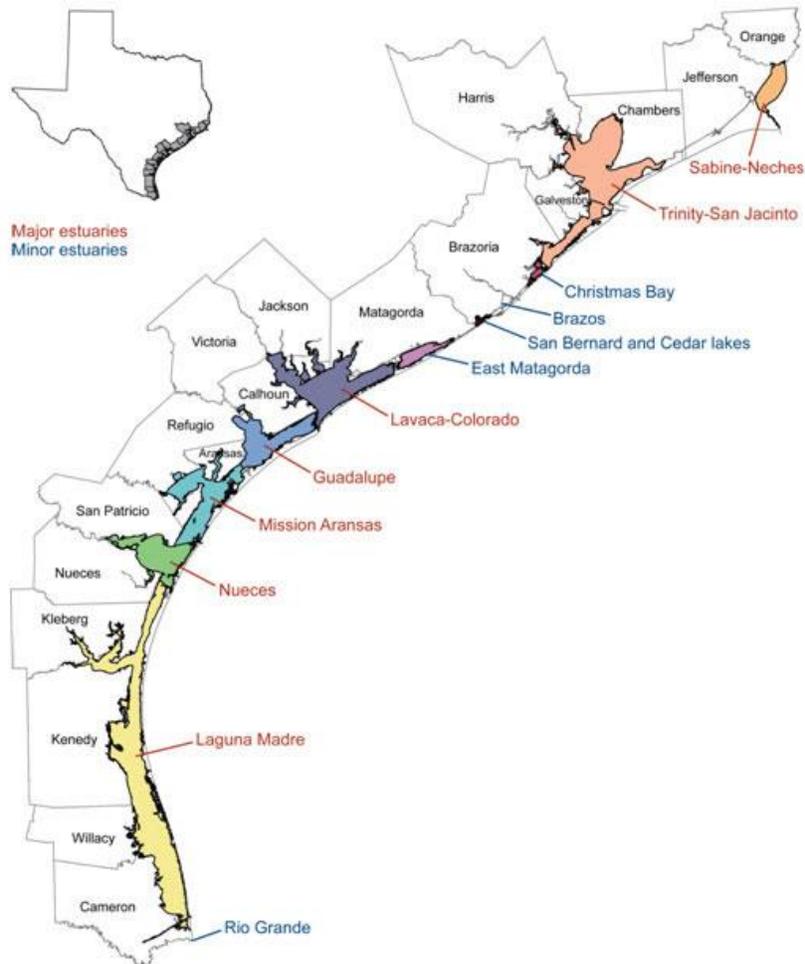
Question: What describes the condition of water, including its chemical, physical, and biological characteristics?

Follow-up: Water is known as the “universal solvent” because so many things can dissolve in it.

BAY

Question: What is a body of water partially enclosed by land that is directly open or connected to the ocean?

Follow-up: Why is it so important to protect the water in bays? Answer: Because many different kinds of sea creatures use bays for reproduction and raising their young.



ESTUARY

Question: What is a partly enclosed body of water along the coast where one or more streams or rivers enter and mix freshwater with saltwater?

Follow-up: Can you name one Texas river that flows into an estuary?

Answers: Brazos, Trinity, Colorado, San Antonio, etc.

WETLAND

Question: What is a low-lying area where the soil is saturated with water at least seasonally and that supports plants adapted to wet soils?

Follow-up: Wetlands are important because they protect from flooding, filter water and provide habitat for wildlife.



HEADWATERS

Question: What is the source of a stream or river often found at the bottom of a mountain or at an underground spring?

Follow-up: Did you know that the headwaters for the Rio Grande River is located in southern Colorado?

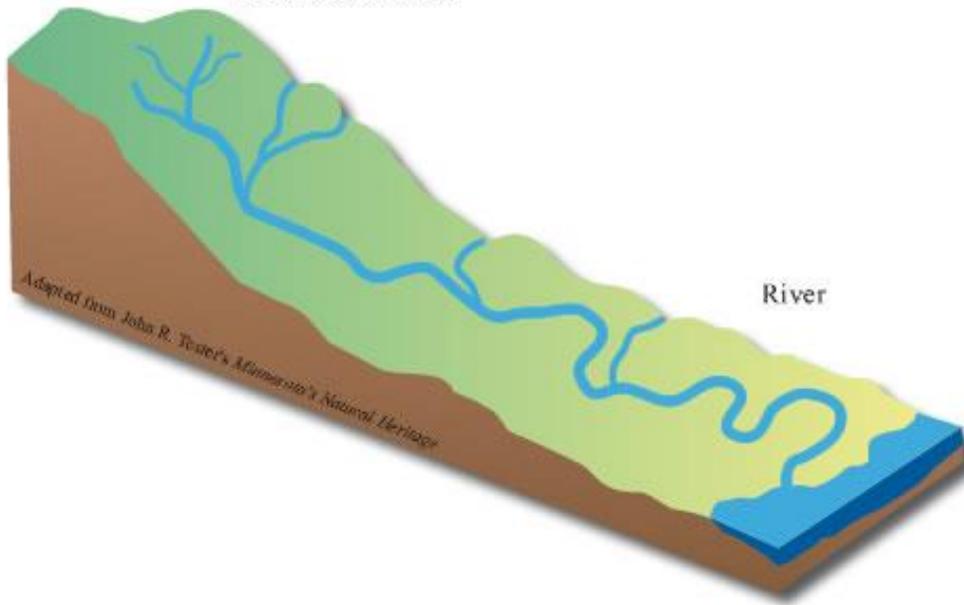
RED DRUM

Question: This fish inhabits inshore and offshore waters along the Atlantic Coast and throughout the Gulf of Mexico. It is a large, reddish fish with at least one black spot at the base of the tail.

Follow-up: Did you know that Red Drum is the state saltwater fish of Texas? The state freshwater fish is the Guadalupe Bass.

Drainage divide

Headwater streams



River

Confluence with larger river

