

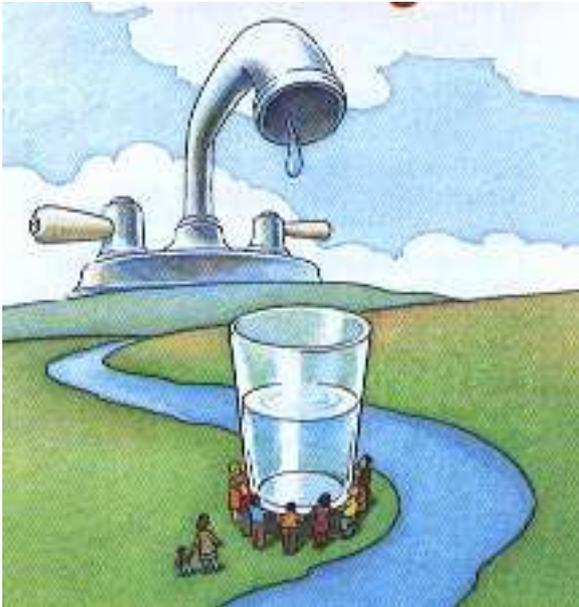
THE PROBLEM OF THE WATER

DRINKING WATER

WHERE DOES MY DRINKING WATER COME FROM?

The water you get from your faucet can come from two places - from the water in lakes or rivers (surface water), or from water that comes from wells (groundwater).

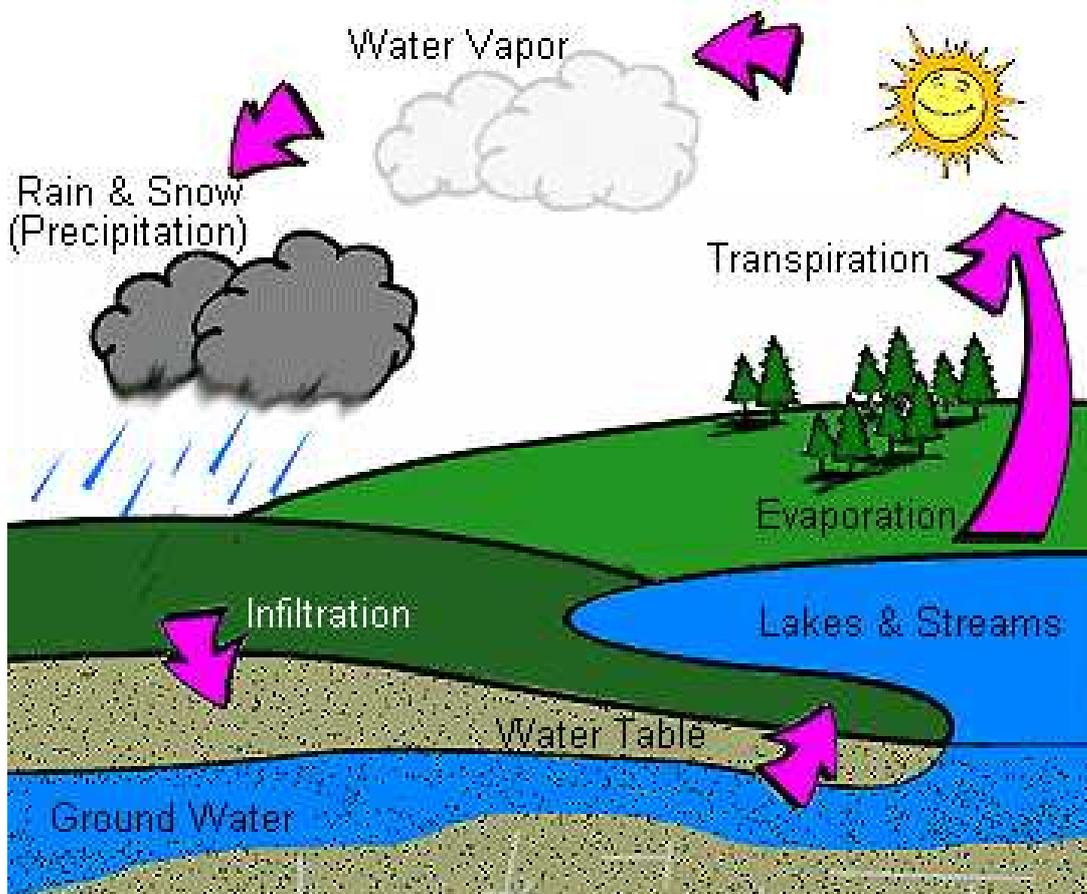
Many people in this area who live in large cities or towns get their water for drinking from lakes and rivers. But, most people in the Spain get their drinking water from groundwater.



WHY IS DRINKING WATER IMPORTANT?

All plants and animals, including people, have to drink water. If they don't drink enough good, clean water, they will get sick, or can even die. But our water isn't always clean enough. Sometimes it has germs and chemicals in it. So, we have to clean the water up before we drink it so that it doesn't make us sick.

FIND OUT ABOUT THE WATER CYCLE



Watered Down = Precipitation

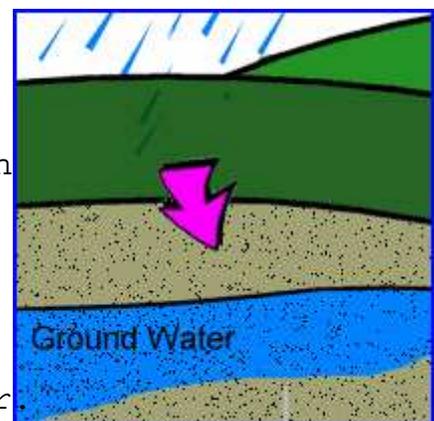
Precipitation is made up of any type of water that falls to the earth like snow, hail, mist, or rain.



Soaking it Up = Infiltration

Infiltration happens when water soaks into the soil from the ground level. It moves underground and moves between the soil and rocks. Some of the water will be soaked up by roots to help plants grow.

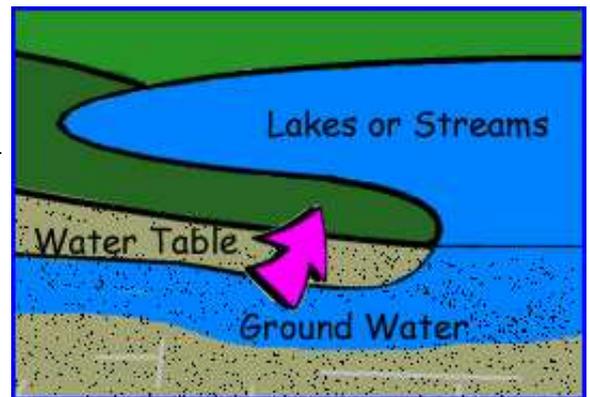
Some of the water keeps moving down into the soil to a level that is filled with water, called ground water.



Underground Water = Ground Water

Ground water is simply water under the ground where the soil is completely filled or saturated with water.

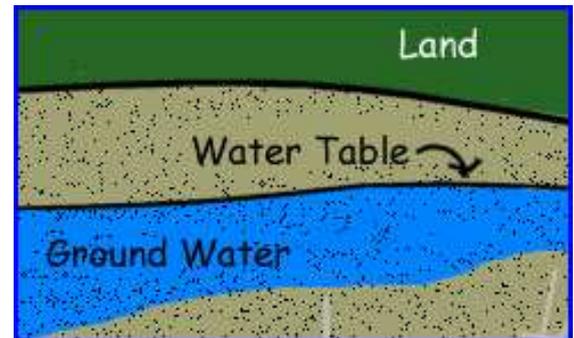
Ground water that meets the land surface also helps keep rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands filled with water.



Fill 'er Up = The Water Table

The Water Table is found underground where the rock and soil begin to be filled or "saturated" with water.

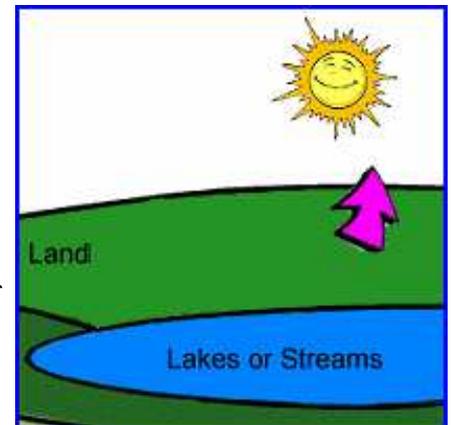
When ground water meets the land surface, it flows out and helps keep rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands filled with water.



Up, Up in the Air = Evaporation

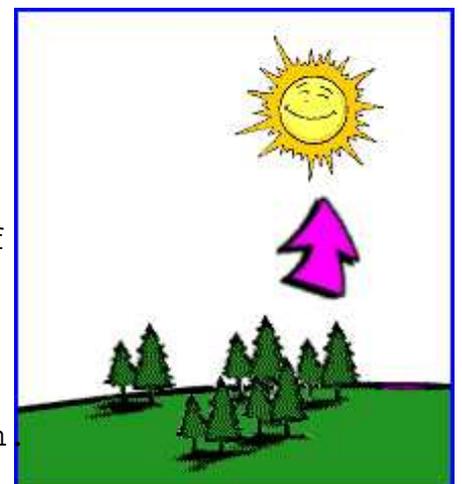
Warmth from the sun causes water from lakes, streams, ice, and soils to turn into water vapor in the air.

Almost all of the precipitated water (80 percent) goes right back into the air because of evaporation. The rest runs off the land or soaks into the ground to become ground water.



Plant Sweat = Transpiration

Transpiration happens when plants give off water vapor through tiny pores in their leaves. This is the plant's way of getting rid of waste, just like people and animals sweat when they're hot! This water vapor evaporates into the air and is stored in the atmosphere until it becomes clouds or precipitation.



Humidity = Water Vapor

Water vapor is water in a gas form that is held in the air until it changes back to water. The water



can change into fine droplets by "condensing" in the air, and we get clouds. When the droplets get big enough, they are pulled to the earth by gravity as precipitation, better known as rain, snow, frost, etc.

Did You Know....?

- * 97% of the water on earth is in the oceans
- * Only 3% of the water on earth is freshwater
- * About 2.4% of the water on earth is permanently frozen in glaciers and at the polar ice caps
- * About 1/2 of 1 % of the water on earth is groundwater
- * Only about 1/100 of 1% of the water on earth is in the rivers and lakes
- * Over 17,000,000 houses use private wells for their drinking water supply
- * A person can live about a month without food, but can live only about 1 week without water

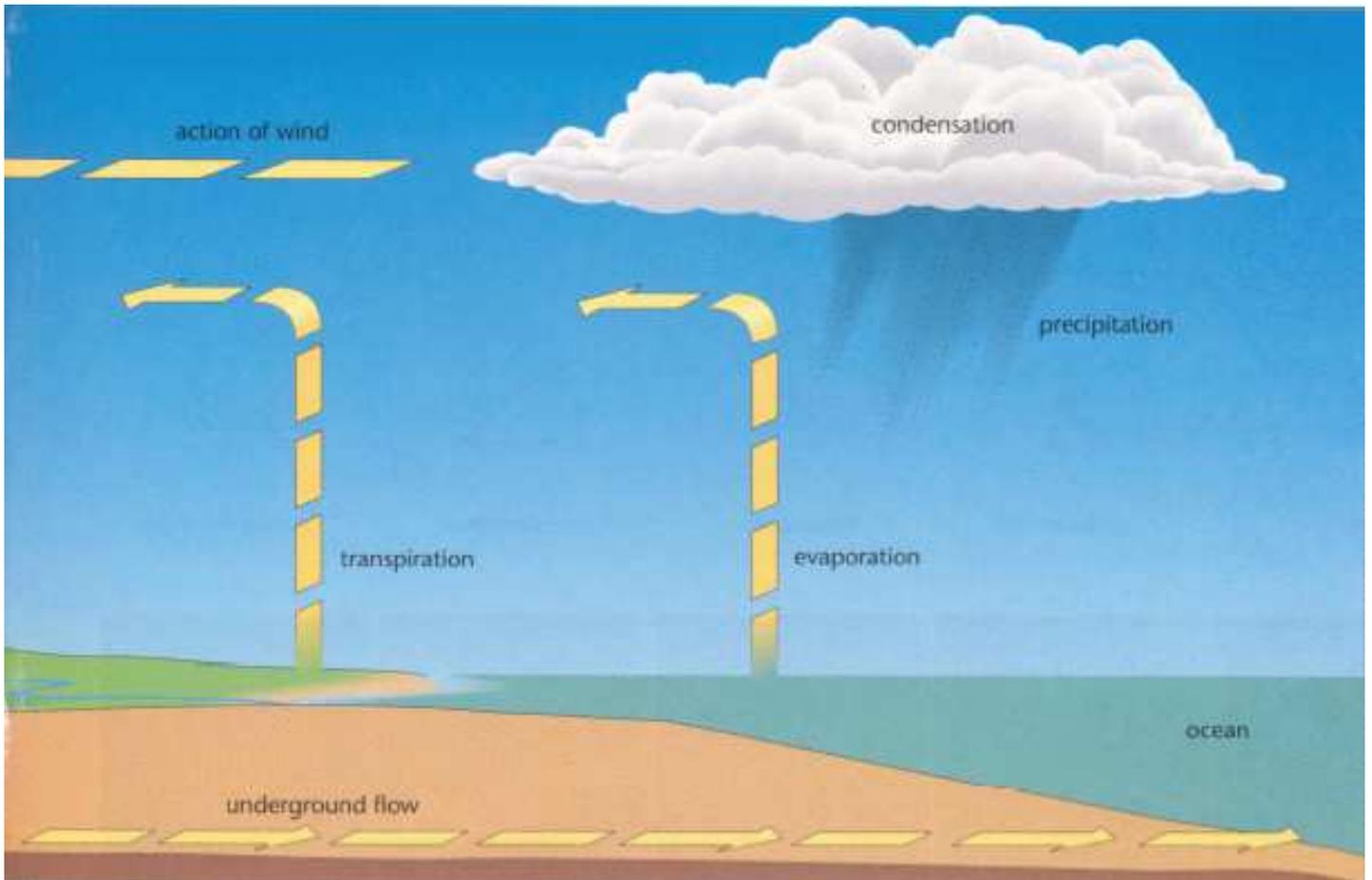


What Can You Do to Help?

There are many small things you can do to protect your drinking water in a big way!

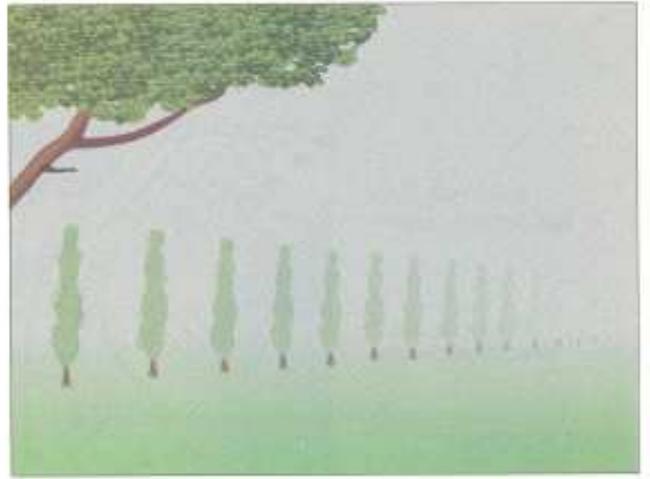
** If your parents change the oil in the car themselves, make sure that they take the old used oil to a recycling center. That keeps the oil from getting on the ground and polluting the water under the ground that someone may drink some day*

Visual Dictionary

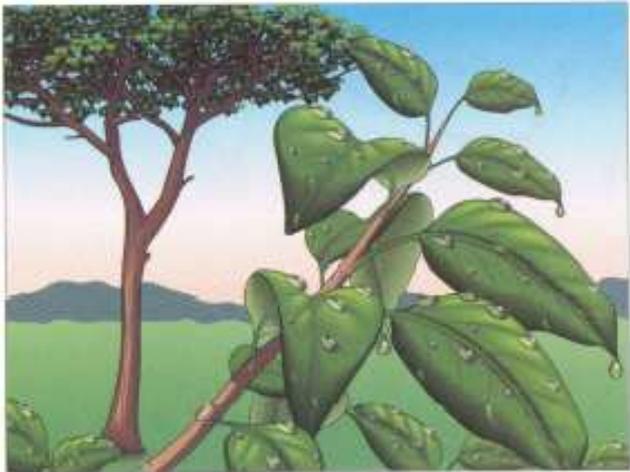




mist



fog



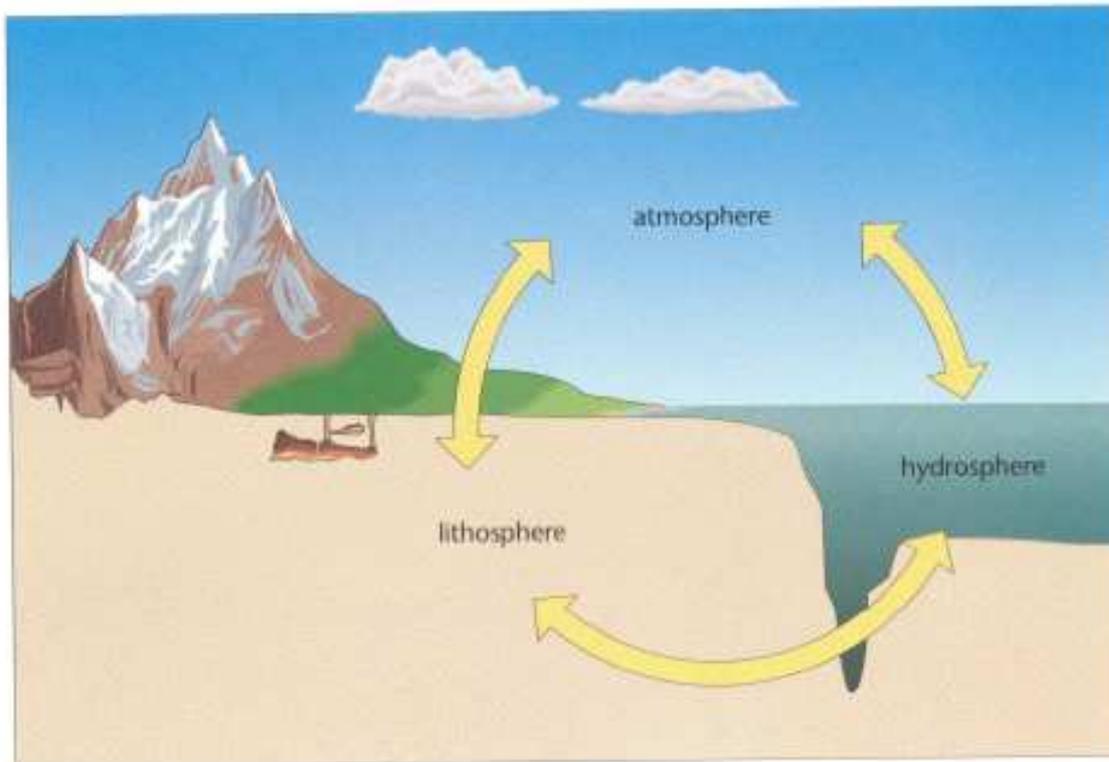
dew



frost

ECOLOGY

STRUCTURE OF THE BIOSPHERE



PRECIPITATIONS

STORMY SKY

