Chapter 11, Section 3 Notes

The water that sinks into the soil and is held underground is

called **groundwater**.

A **permeable** substance is a substance that liquids can flow through.

Soil, sand, and gravel are permeable because there are spaces between

the particles.

An **impermeable** substance is a substance that liquids cannot flow through.

Groundwater collects because **gravity** causes rainwater to sink into the soil.

Eventually, the water reaches **impermeable** rock and is held in place or

forced in different directions.

The top of the region that is saturated, or completely filled in with

water, is called the **water table.**

An **aquifer** is an underground layer of permeable rock or sediment that

contains water. Layers of impermeable rock keep the water from draining

away.

A **spring** is a flow of water from the ground at a place where the surface

of the land dips below the water table.

A **well** is a hole in the ground that reaches down to the saturation zone – the

wet region below the water table. A **pump** is usually used to drain the water

out of the ground and a **screen** is used to filter out sand and gravel.

An **artesian well** does not need a pump. It is a well in which water flows

to the surface naturally, because it is under pressure from the weight of

surrounding water in the aquifer.

If **water** is used faster than it is replaced, a well may run dry.

A **hot spring** is a place where hot water reaches the surface because of

pressure caused by heat.

A **geyser** is a type of hot spring that shoots water into the air. One of

the largest geysers, Old Faithful, shoots a jet of hot water and steam about

20 times a day.