

aquifer

a water-bearing
layer of the earth's
crust

catchment

an area from which a
river system or lake
derives its water

condensation

the process by which
water changes from a
gaseous state to a liquid
state

discharge

the volume of water
passing through a river
in a specified period of
time

drought

a prolonged period of
below-average rainfall
that inhibits plant
growth

evaporation

the process by which water changes from a liquid state to a gaseous state

evapotranspiration

the process of evaporation and transpiration

flood

the over-bank flow resulting from prolonged or heavy rainfall

groundwater

water that has seeped into the ground and is contained within the soil or rock layer

hydrosphere

the interconnected system of water storage in the atmosphere and lithosphere, including the oceans, ice caps, rivers and groundwater

impervious

matter through which water cannot pass; also known as impermeable

infiltration

the downward movement of water into the soil or rock

irrigation

the supply of water to arable farming land by artificial means

precipitation

the forms in which water passes from the atmosphere to the earth's surface; this includes rain, sleet, snow, hail, dew and fog

riparian

relating to the river bank

runoff	water that flows over the surface of the land
transpiration	the discharge of water vapour from plants into the atmosphere
turbidity	the muddiness of water
water budget	the total amount of water available in an area; its inflows and outflows
water table	the upper surface of the zone of saturation in permeable rock, sand or soil