Vocabulary Words

1. **Aquifer – a geologic formation that is water bearing. A geological formation or structure that stores and /or transmits water, such as to wells and springs.**

2. **Aquifer (confined) – soil or rock below the land surface that is saturated with water. There are layers of impermeable material both above and below it and it is under pressure so that when the aquifer is penetrated by a well, the water will rise above the top of the aquifer.**

3. **Aquifer (unconfined) – an aquifer whose upper water surface (water table) is at atmospheric pressure, and thus is able to rise and fall.**

4. **Artificial recharge – a process where water is put back into ground-water storage from surface-water supplies such as irrigation, or induced infiltration from streams or wells.**

5. **Water table – the top of the water surface in the saturated part of an aquifer**

6. **Confining Layer - a geologic material with little or no permeability or hydraulic conductivity. Water does not pass through this layer or the rate of movement is extremely slow.**

7. **Contaminant - (pollutant) any substance that makes water unfit for a given use**

8. **Discharge Area - an area where groundwater emerges at the surface; an area where upward pressure or hydraulic head moves groundwater towards the surface to escape as a spring, seep, or base flow of a stream**

9. **Groundwater - the water below the water table contained in void spaces (pore spaces between rock and soil particles, or bedrock fractures)**

10. **Infiltration - the process of water moving from the ground surface vertically downward into the soil**

11. **Surface Water - water found in ponds, lakes, streams, rivers, and inland seas**