

potable

describes the condition of water that makes it drinkable (safe drinking) by humans

salinity

describes the total amount of all salts in water

water quality

is a description of how pure the water is

hard water

is water that contains high concentrations of minerals such as calcium and magnesium

distillation

a salt solution is boiled so that water evaporates and leaves the salt behind - the water vapor is then collected as pure water

reverse osmosis

forces salt water through a filter or membrane with holes too small for the salt particles to pass through

wave

is the change in patterns that move along the surface of water

tide

is a change in the water level along the coast of a continent

tsunami

is a very large ocean wave

stream characteristics

include the rate of flow and the slope of the stream's bed

sediments

rock fragments and soil

erosion

is the wearing away of rocks and soil

sediment load

is the amount of water-borne materials that it can carry

meander

a large curve in a river that develops when the flow rate decreases

flood plain

describes the flat land where the river overflows its banks on both sides

delta

is the land at the mouth of the river in which the sediment forms a fan shaped deposit

watershed

is all the area of land that drains into one main lake or river

Continental Divide

is the highest point on a continent that determines the direction water will flow

lithosphere

is the solid outer part of the Earth (the crust)

glacier

are large moving bodies of ice

continental glaciers

are glaciers that form in cold regions on a continent

valley glaciers

are glaciers that form in cold mountain regions flowing down through valleys between mountain peaks

moraines

are the rocks and gravel that build up along the sides and end of a glacier

eskers

are formed when tunnels beneath the ice are melted and rock and sand are deposited in the tunnels like a winding river

drumlins

are small hills with a teardrop shape formed when a glacier moves over moraines formed earlier

erratic

are large chunks of rock carried by a glacier as it advances and then deposits it when it retreats

climate

is the average weather measured over a long period of time

chinook

are warm winds on the eastern slopes of the Rockies

shadow effect

is the condition that creates chinooks because precipitation is deposited on the western slopes and the warm winds blow on the eastern slopes

currents

are streams of water that move within large bodies of water

diversity

describes the variety of different species in an ecosystem

Intertidal zone

represents the shoreline of the ocean

estuary

a diverse and rich in nutrient ocean zone where fresh water from the land mixes with saltwater from the ocean

brackish water

is water that is a mixture of fresh water from the land and saltwater from the ocean

Continental shelf

is a shelf of land extending out from the edge of a continent below the ocean surface

Oceanic zone

Represents the deepest parts of the ocean far from shore

adaptation

is any physical characteristic or behavior of a species which increases the species chances of survival

population

is a group of organisms of the same species that live in a particular area

alkali lake

is a lake that contains large concentrations of carbonates and bicarbonates

algal bloom

refers to the green slime (algae) on the surface of a body of water

evaporation

heated water rises as water vapor in the air

transpiration

is the evaporation of water from the leaves of plants on the Earth

condensation

occurs when water vapor in the air cools and forms larger droplets of water

precipitation

occurs when water droplets formed high in the atmosphere fall to the Earth

groundwater

describes the water that is below the surface of the soil

irrigation

is the diversion (changing the flow) of water to places where there is no water supply

dam

is a barrier built to stop the flow of water

sewage

is the waste produce by humans

monitor

means to observe, check or record information for a specific purpose

intended consequence

is a planned result following an action

unintended consequence

an unplanned result following an action