



## OUR WATER, OUR FUTURE VOCABULARY

<b><i>aquifer</i></b>	the underground layers of rock, sand, and gravel where water is stored over millions of years
<b><i>Central Arizona Project</i></b>	the 336-mile (541 km) canal that transports Colorado River water to Tucson
<b><i>Colorado River</i></b>	the largest river in the western United States (which flows through many states, including Arizona)
<b><i>condensation</i></b>	occurs when water vapor cools and becomes liquid; clouds are formed through this process (could be considered the opposite of evaporation)
<b><i>desert</i></b>	a dry region of the world that receives less than 12 inches (30.5 cm) of rainwater each year
<b><i>evaporation</i></b>	occurs when liquid water changes into water vapor, a gas (could be considered the opposite of condensation)
<b><i>groundwater</i></b>	water that exists beneath the Earth's surface in an aquifer
<b><i>natural resource</i></b>	any resource that we use or take from the natural environment; can include both materials and energy (such as air, water, trees, soil, natural gas, oil, or minerals)
<b><i>non-renewable resource</i></b>	material considered finite in amount (e.g., petroleum, coal, copper), or exhaustible because of scarcity, the great length of time required to form, or rapid depletion
<b><i>percolation</i></b>	the downward movement of water through soil
<b><i>precipitation</i></b>	water falling, in a liquid or solid state, from the atmosphere to the Earth (examples: rain, snow, hail, sleet)
<b><i>recharge</i></b>	the addition of water, usually from rain and snowmelt, into the aquifer; may be artificially done by humans
<b><i>recycled water (reclaimed water)</i></b>	wastewater cleaned to government standards to be reused for many purposes



<b><i>renewable resource</i></b>	material that can be renewed, restored, or regenerated by natural ecological cycles or sound management practices. Examples include plants, animals and sunlight. Water is considered renewable (through precipitation and recharge), but in the Tucson area, it is a limited renewable resource.
<b><i>resource</i></b>	source, ability, or supply from which we draw in time of need
<b><i>runoff</i></b>	water from rain or snowmelt flowing downhill into washes, streams, and rivers
<b><i>Santa Cruz River</i></b>	the largest river in Tucson, which is now dry most of the year and only flows after significant rains
<b><i>transpiration</i></b>	the evaporation of water from plants; occurs primarily through the leaves
<b><i>water table</i></b>	the uppermost surface of groundwater in the aquifer
<b><i>well</i></b>	a hole dug or drilled down into the aquifer to locate and obtain water (deep water is usually brought up to the surface with a pump)

