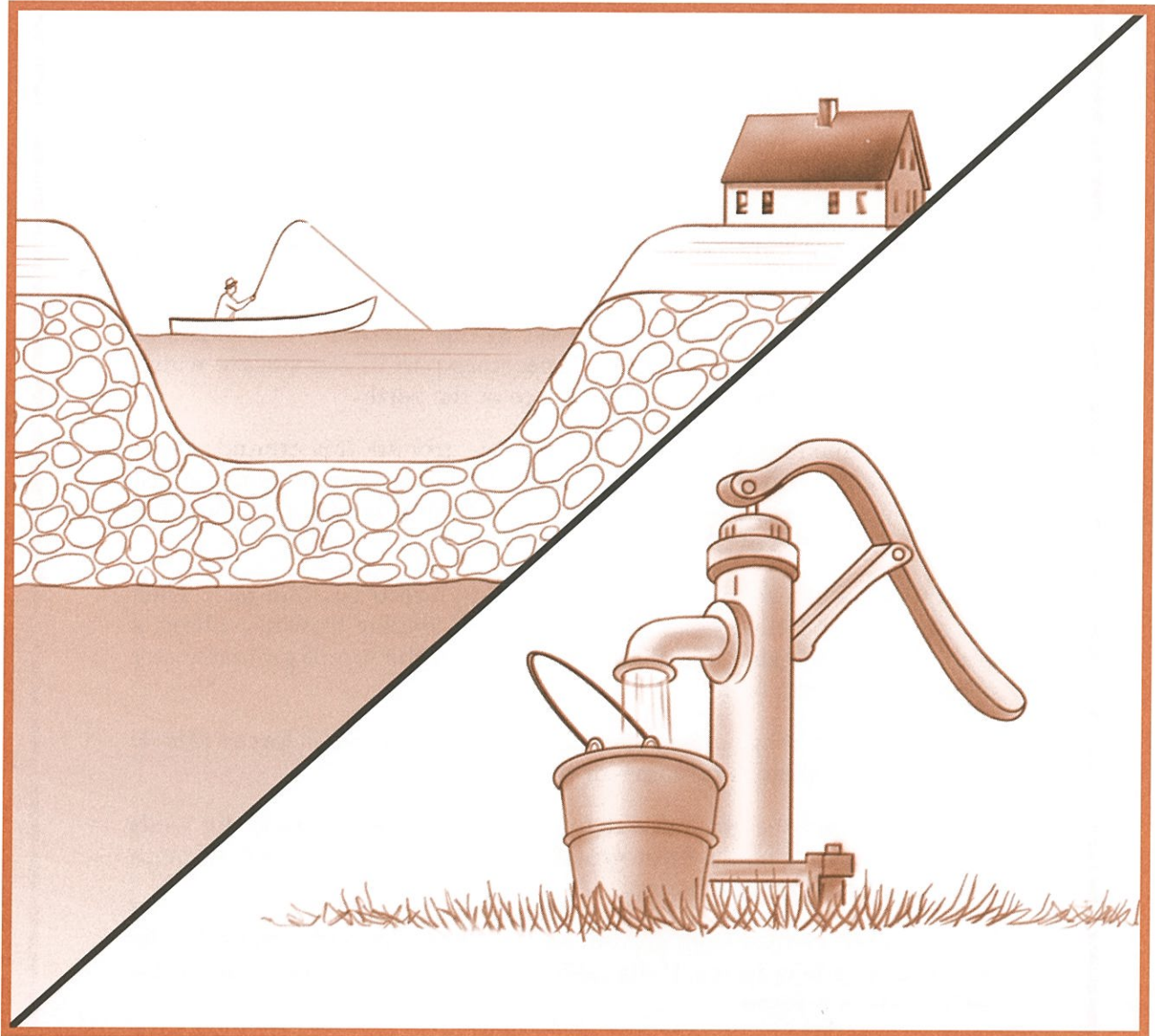


Where does rainwater go?



KEY TERM

ground water: water that collects in pores in the soil

LESSON

2

Where does rainwater go?

It rains on almost all places of our Earth. You have probably seen both heavy rains and light rains. Did you ever think about where the rainwater goes?

You probably know part of the answer to this question. Rain falls into oceans, lakes, rivers, and streams. It becomes part of our surface water. Surface water can be seen on the surface of the earth.

However, some rainwater also seeps into the ground. It is **ground water**. Ground water is under the surface of the earth. The ground water is just below the surface of the ground. In other places it is very far below the surface—hundreds of meters (thousands of feet).

The ground water seeps into the ground until it rests on solid rock. Then it cannot seep farther. The water builds up similar to water filling a bathtub. It gets higher and higher. The level of the top of ground water is called the water table.

The water table keeps changing. It is higher when there is lots of rain. It is lower when there is no rain—or little rain.

We do not often see ground water, but it is important. People dig wells and get drinking water from ground water. Plants get water through their roots from ground water.

Lakes may be formed from ground water. Where the land dips below the water table, a lake forms. If the land dips only slightly below the water table, a swamp forms.

THE WATER TABLE

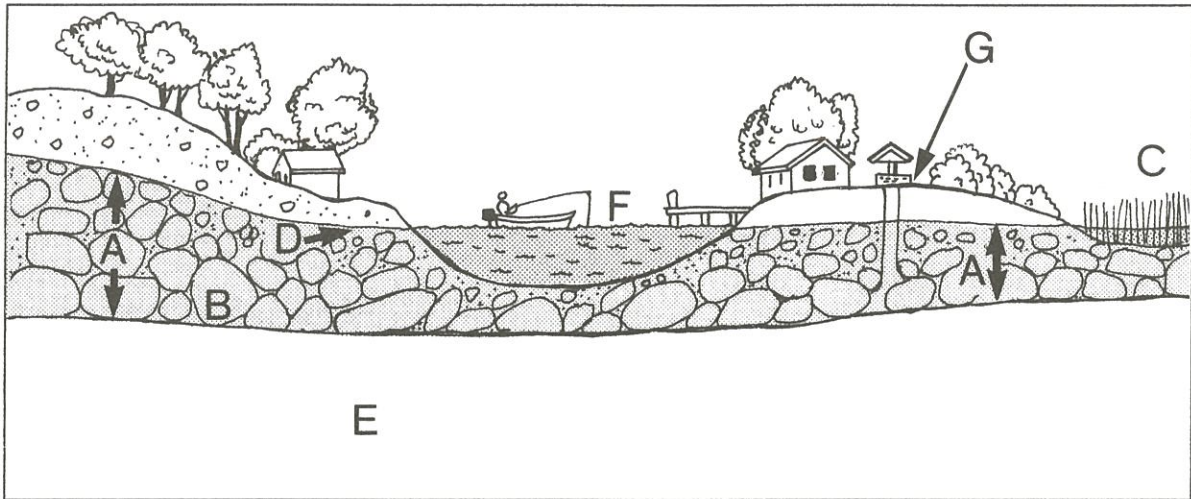


Figure A

- Identify the following by letter.
 - water table _____
 - swamp _____
 - lake _____
 - well _____
 - solid rock _____
 - solid-rock line _____
 - crust below the surface that is soaked with water _____
- Trace the water table (line) with a red pencil.
- The water table _____ a straight line.
is, is not
- A water table _____ change.
does, does not
- When there is little rain . . .
 - the water table _____ .
rises, lowers
 - the lake level _____ .
rises, lowers
 - the swamp water _____ .
rises, may dry out
 - the well water _____ .
rises, may dry out

MATCHING

Match each term in Column A with its description in Column B. Write the correct letter in the space provided.

	Column A	Column B
_____	1. water table	a) has high water table
_____	2. swamp area	b) lowers the water table
_____	3. heavy rainfall	c) lakes and streams
_____	4. dry period	d) upper level of ground water
_____	5. surface water	e) raises the water table

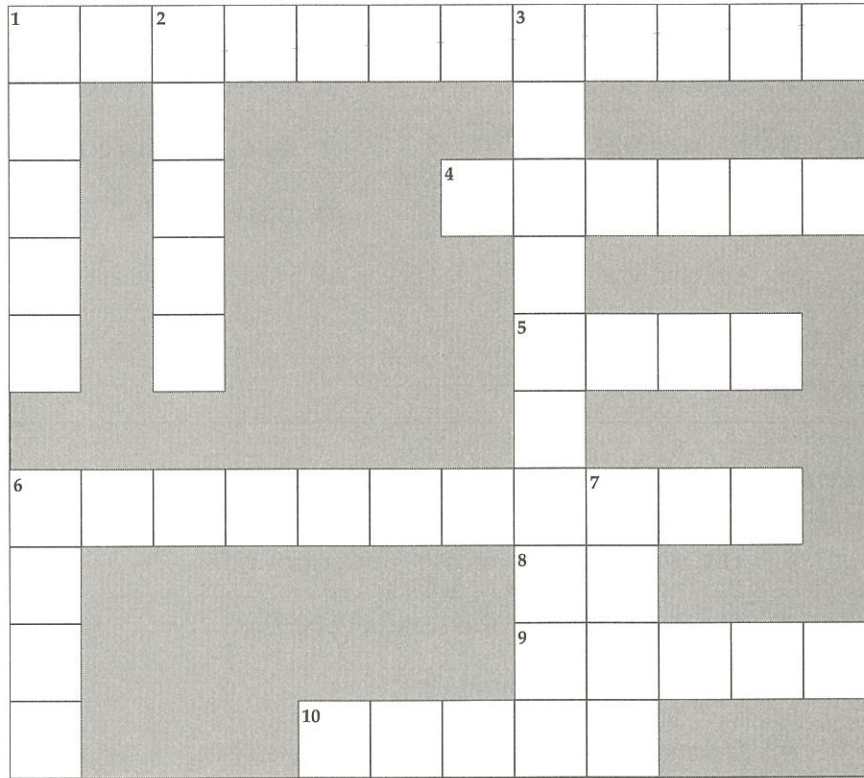
TRUE OR FALSE

In the space provided, write "true" if the sentence is true. Write "false" if the sentence is false.

- _____ 1. The water table is mostly underground.
- _____ 2. The water table is the same everywhere.
- _____ 3. The water table changes.
- _____ 4. During dry weather, the water table rises.
- _____ 5. During wet weather, the water table rises.
- _____ 6. Swamps are found in places that have a high water table.
- _____ 7. A lake can dry up.
- _____ 8. Much rain always means a high water table.
- _____ 9. Good soil has a lot of clay.
- _____ 10. Ground water is important only to plants.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Use the clues to complete the crossword puzzle



CLUES

Across

1. Water you can see on the surface of the earth.
4. River.
5. It falls into streams.
6. Water that is under the surface of the earth.
8. Where land dips below the water table there may _____ a lake
9. Bodies of water surrounded by land.
10. When there is little rain, the water table is _____ .

Down

1. If the land dips a little below the water table, there is a _____ .
2. Very wide stream.
3. The level of the top of ground water.
6. Ground water is _____ for plants.
7. "Raindrop" from your eye.