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| Glossary |  |
| Chapter 13 |  |
| dam | A structure built across a river to control the river's flow or to create a reservoir. See reservoir. |
| desalination | Purification of saltwater or brackish (slightly salty) water by removal of dissolved salts. |
| drainage basin | Land area that delivers water, sediment, and dissolved substances via small streams to a major stream (river). See watershed. |
| drought | Condition in which an area does not get enough water because of lower-than-normal precipitation or higher-than-normal temperatures that increase evaporation. |
| floodplain | Flat valley floor next to a stream channel. For legal purposes, the term often applies to any low area that has the potential for flooding, including certain coastal areas. |
| freshwater | Water that contains very low levels of dissolved salts. |
| recharge area | Any area of land allowing water to percolate down through it and into an aquifer. See aquifer, natural recharge. |
| reliable runoff | Surface runoff of water that generally can be counted on as a stable source of water from year to year. See runoff. |
| reservoir | Artificial lake created when a stream is dammed. See dam. |
| surface runoff | Water flowing off the land into bodies of surface water. See reliable runoff. |
| surface water | Precipitation that does not infiltrate the ground or return to the atmosphere by evaporation or transpiration. See runoff. Compare groundwater. |
| virtual water | Water that is not directly consumed but is used to produce food and other products. |
| water footprint | A rough measure of the volume of water that we use directly and indirectly to keep a person or group alive and to support their lifestyles. |
| water table | Upper surface of the zone of saturation, in which all available pores in the soil and rock in the earth's crust are filled with water. See zone of aeration, zone of saturation. |
| watershed | Land area that delivers water, sediment, and dissolved substances via small streams to a major stream (river). |
| zone of saturation | Zone where all available pores in soil and rock in the earth's crust are filled by water. See water table, zone of aeration. |

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