STUDENT'S NAME:_____ DATE:_____

COURSE/GRADE:_____ SUBJECT:_____

Lesson 2 · Where is Earth's water?

Key Words

- fresh water
- glacier
- ice cap
- groundwater

1 **Read and look at the picture. Why do you see more blue water than green land? Underline the answer.**

Water on Earth

When you look at our planet, you see much more blue water than green land. That is because almost three-fourths of Earth's surface is covered with water.

Water exists as a solid, liquid, and gas. Ice is solid water. Some of Earth's water is frozen in glaciers and polar ice caps. You see liquid water in rivers, lakes, the ocean, and other bodies of water. When water gets hot enough, it turns into an invisible gas called water vapor. Some of the water near Earth's surface is water vapor in the air. The water vapor rises from water on Earth's surface and becomes part of the atmosphere.

2 **Read. Why is fresh water an important resource? Discuss as a class.**

Surface Water

Surface water is any water that is above the ground on Earth. You can classify water bodies by the type of water they contain: salt water or fresh water.

Salt Water

If you have ever tasted ocean water, you know it tastes very salty. However, taste is not the main problem. Ocean water is not healthy for drinking. More than ninety-seven percent of Earth's water is salty water in the ocean and seas. Why is the ocean salty? Ocean water is a mixture of water and dissolved salts. These salts come mostly from rocks on land. As rivers flow over land, they dissolve salts from rocks. They carry the salts to the ocean.

Fresh Water

Only three percent of Earth's water is **fresh water**. People need fresh water for drinking, cooking, growing crops, and many other activities. Most of Earth's fresh water is frozen in glaciers and ice caps. People cannot use that water. People depend on the small amount of fresh water available in rivers and lakes. People also get drinking water from underground.

3 **Read and match.**

Ocean and Seas
The ocean is a large body of salt water
Seas are smaller areas of the ocean tha
are partly surrounded by land.

Lakes and Ponds
Land surrounds lakes and ponds, which are smaller than the ocean. Lakes are generally larger than ponds. Almost all lakes and ponds contain fresh water, but a few lakes and ponds contain salt water.

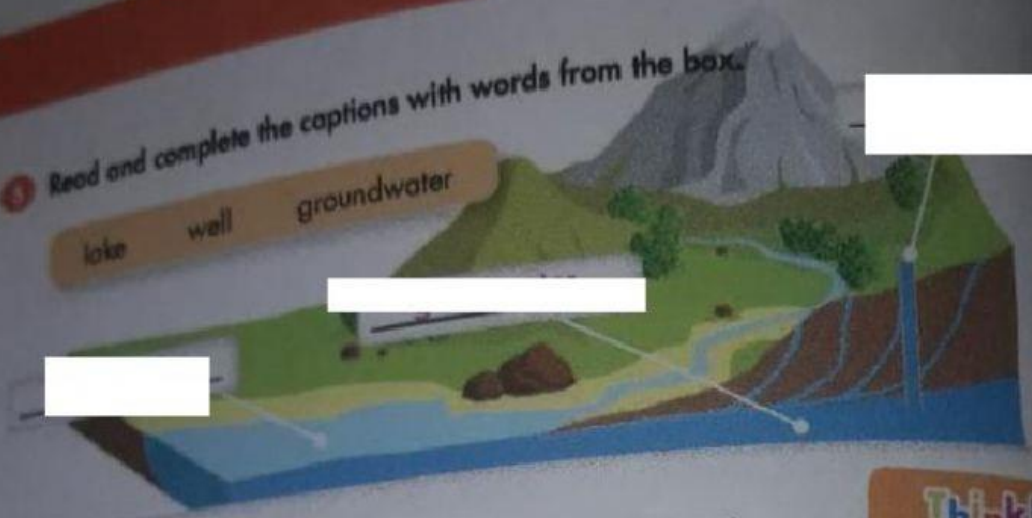
Rivers
A river is flowing fresh water. Water in rivers moves downhill. Rivers flow into the ocean, lakes, and other rivers.

Glaciers and Ice Caps
A **glacier** is a large body of slowly moving ice. Glaciers form when more snow falls than melts in an area. The polar **ice caps** are large areas of ice at the North and South Poles.

4 **Circle the names of bodies of water that can contain salt water. Then, circle the picture of the body of water that contains most of Earth's fresh water.**

5 Read and complete the captions with words from the box.

lake well groundwater



Groundwater

When it rains, water falls into bodies of water and onto the ground. Some water that falls on the ground runs into bodies of water. But some water soaks into the ground. **Groundwater** is any water that is underground. Groundwater fills the spaces and cracks in underground soil and rocks.

Although it is hard to imagine, there is more fresh liquid water underground than on Earth's surface. Groundwater is not trapped underground. It can flow slowly through most types of soil. In some places, groundwater may flow out of the ground and into a lake, pond, or river. A spring is a place where groundwater comes to the surface of the land. People also dig wells to reach water stored underground.

Think!

Why do people dig wells to reach groundwater?

6 Read and list three things that are removed from water at a water treatment plant.

Clean Drinking Water

People need clean water for drinking, cooking, and other activities. But fresh water from under the ground and from bodies of water on the surface is not always clean. For example, water in lakes and rivers can contain germs that could make people sick. Chemicals used to grow crops can wash into bodies of water. Fresh water must usually be cleaned before people can drink it.

In some places, people get drinking water from their own wells. They must filter the water to remove chemicals and dirt. Many cities have water treatment plants. In these plants drinking water goes through a cleaning process that removes dirt and other materials and kills germs. The clean water then travels in pipes to people's homes and businesses.