

erosion

transport of surface materials by agents such as gravity, wind, water, or glaciers

channel

groove created by water moving down the same path

beach

deposit of sediment whose materials vary in size, color, and composition and is most commonly found on a smooth, gently sloped shoreline

water table

upper surface of the zone of saturation; drops during a drought

spring

forms when the water table meets Earth's surface often found on hillsides

runoff

any rainwater that does not soak into the ground or evaporate but flows over Earth's surface; generally flows into streams and has the ability to erode and carry sediment

tides

the alternating rise and fall of sea level caused by the gravitational attraction of the moon and the sun

pore

a small, or minute, opening in rock or soil

aquifer

layer of permeable rock that allows water to flow through

geyser

hot spring that erupts periodically and shoots water and steam into the air. For example: Old Faithful

sheet erosion

a type of surface water erosion caused by runoff that occurs when water flowing as sheets picks up sediments and carries them away

meander

broad, c- shaped curve in a river or stream, formed by erosion of its outer bank

impermeable

describes materials
that water cannot
pass through

groundwater

water that soaks into the ground
and collects in pores and empty
spaces and is an important
source of drinking water

**drainage
basin**

land area from which
a river or stream
collects runoff

**longshore
current**

current that runs parallel to the
shoreline, is caused by waves colliding
with the shore at slight angles, and
moves tons of loose sediment

cave

underground opening that
can form when acidic
groundwater dissolves
limestone

permeable

describes soil rock with
connecting pores through
which water can flow