Name: _____ Date: _____

# The Water Hiding in Sand and Rock

Circle group

When rain falls, not all of it runs into rivers. Some soaks into the ground. It slips through tiny spaces in soil, sand, and gravel. It goes down until it reaches a layer where every space is full of water. This water is called groundwater.

Groundwater is not a big underground lake. Think of a sponge. The water fills the small holes in sand or cracked rock. A layer of rock or sand that holds a lot of water and lets it flow is called an aquifer.

People have long used groundwater. To reach it, they dig or drill a well. A well is a deep hole that goes down into the aquifer. A pump or a bucket brings the water up. Where there is little rain, wells can be the main way to get water for drinking and farms.

Groundwater moves slowly, often just a short way in a day. Rain can take years to travel through the ground. A well can run low if people pump out water faster than rain refills it. Using water with care helps keep a well full.

## Questions

**1. What is groundwater?**

_____

_____

**2. What is an aquifer?**

_____

_____

**3. How do people reach groundwater?**

_____

_____

**4. Why does the passage say to think of a sponge?**

_____

_____

**5. How fast does groundwater move?**

_____

_____

**6. Why can a well run low?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

groundwater: water that is stored under the ground
aquifer: a layer of rock or sand that holds water underground
drill: to make a deep hole using a tool or machine
gravel: small pieces of rock, bigger than sand

## Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

# The Water Hiding in Sand and Rock

Triangle group

When rain falls, not all of it runs into rivers. Some soaks into the ground. It slips down through tiny spaces between bits of soil, sand, and gravel until it reaches a layer where every space is full of water. This underground water is called groundwater.

Groundwater is not a big underground lake. Picture a sponge instead. The water fills the small holes inside sand or cracked rock. A layer of rock or sand that holds a lot of water, and lets it flow, is called an aquifer.

People have long used groundwater. To reach it, they dig or drill a well. The well is a deep hole that goes down into the aquifer. A pump or a bucket brings the water up. In places with little rain, wells can be the main way families get water for drinking and for farms.

Groundwater moves slowly, often only a short distance in a day. It can take years for rain to travel through the ground. That means a well can run low if people pump out water faster than rain can refill it. Using water carefully helps keep a well full for years to come.

## Questions

**1. What is groundwater?**

_____

_____

**2. What is an aquifer?**

_____

_____

**3. How do people reach groundwater?**

_____

_____

**4. Why does the passage compare groundwater to a sponge?**

_____

_____

**5. How fast does groundwater usually move?**

_____

_____

**6. Why can a well run low?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

groundwater: water that is stored under the ground
aquifer: a layer of rock or sand that holds water underground
drill: to make a deep hole using a tool or machine
gravel: small pieces of rock, bigger than sand

## Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

# The Water Hiding in Sand and Rock

Square group

When rain falls, not all of it flows into rivers and streams. A portion soaks into the ground and trickles down through the tiny gaps between particles of soil, sand, and gravel until it reaches a layer in which every gap is filled with water. This underground water is known as groundwater.

Groundwater is not a vast underground lake, as many people imagine. A better picture is a sponge. The water occupies the small holes within sand or cracked rock. A layer of rock or sand that holds a great deal of water, and allows it to flow, is called an aquifer.

People have relied on groundwater for a very long time. To reach it, they dig or drill a well, which is a deep hole that extends down into the aquifer. A pump or a bucket then brings the water to the surface. In regions that receive little rain, wells can be the principal source of water for drinking and for farming.

Groundwater travels slowly, often covering only a short distance in a day, and it can take years for rain to make its way through the ground. Consequently, a well can run low if people pump out water faster than the rain is able to refill it. Using water carefully helps keep a well full for many years to come.

## Questions

**1. What is groundwater?**

_____

_____

**2. What is an aquifer?**

_____

_____

**3. How do people get to groundwater?**

_____

_____

**4. Why does the passage suggest picturing a sponge?**

_____

_____

**5. How quickly does groundwater travel?**

_____

_____

**6. Why might a well run low?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

groundwater: water that is stored under the ground
aquifer: a layer of rock or sand that holds water underground
drill: to make a deep hole using a tool or machine
gravel: small pieces of rock, bigger than sand

## Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

# For the teacher: The Water Hiding in Sand and Rock

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

### Circle: The Water Hiding in Sand and Rock

Easier · 184 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.3

1. Water that has soaked into the ground and fills spaces in soil, sand, and rock.
2. A layer of rock or sand that holds a lot of water and lets it flow.
3. They dig or drill a well.
4. The water fills many small holes in sand or rock, not one big lake.
5. Slowly, often just a short way in a day.
6. People may pump out water faster than rain refills it.

### Triangle: The Water Hiding in Sand and Rock

This passage · 194 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.4

1. Water that has soaked into the ground and fills spaces in soil, sand, and rock.
2. A layer of rock or sand that holds a lot of water and lets it flow.
3. They dig or drill a well.
4. The water fills many small holes in sand or rock instead of sitting in one big lake.
5. Slowly, often only a short distance in a day.
6. People may pump out water faster than rain can refill it.

### Square: The Water Hiding in Sand and Rock

Harder · 222 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7

1. Water that has soaked into the ground and fills the gaps in soil, sand, and rock.
2. A layer of rock or sand that holds a great deal of water and lets it flow.
3. They dig or drill a well.
4. The water fills many small holes within sand or rock instead of sitting in one vast lake.
5. Slowly, often only a short distance in a day.
6. People may pump out water faster than the rain can refill it.