Water

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Environmental Systems and Societies · HL · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
hydrological cycle	The **hydrological cycle** moves water between land, sea and air.
infiltration	**Infiltration** lets rain soak into the soil.
percolation	**Percolation** moves water down through soil and rock.
evaporation /ɪˌvæpəˈreɪʃn/	**Evaporation** dries wet clothes.
transpiration /trænspəˈreɪʃn/	**Transpiration** is the loss of water from leaves.
condensation /kɒnden'seɪʃn/	**Condensation** forms water droplets as moist air cools.
evapotranspiration	**Evapotranspiration** is water lost from the ground and from plants.
residence time	Water has a long **residence time** in deep groundwater: it stays for years.
aquifer	An **aquifer** stores groundwater in rock.
thermohaline circulation	**Thermohaline circulation** is a slow ocean current driven by temperature and salt.
upwelling /ˈʌpwəlɪŋ/	**Upwelling** brings cold water full of nutrients up to the surface.
El Niño /el ˈniːnjəʊ/	**El Niño** can weaken upwelling near Peru.

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water footprint	A cotton shirt's **water footprint** includes water used to grow cotton.
virtual water	Imported wheat carries **virtual water**: the water used to grow it abroad.
water security /ˈwɔːtə sɪˈkjʊərɪti/	Safe water for everyone means good **water security**.
water stress /ˈwɔːtə stres/	Rising demand can increase **water stress** in a dry region.
physical water scarcity	A desert may face **physical water scarcity** because little rain falls.
economic water scarcity	**Economic water scarcity** means there is water, but no money for pipes.
desalination /dɪˌsælɪˈneɪʃn/	**Desalination** removes salt from seawater.
greywater	Treated **greywater** from washing can be used to flush toilets.
common resource /ˈkɒmən rɪˈzɔːs/	Ocean fish are a **common resource**: anyone can catch them.
tragedy of the commons /ˈtrædʒədi ɒvðə ˈkɒmənz/	Overfishing is an example of the **tragedy of the commons**.
bycatch /ˈbaɪkætʃ/	A turtle caught by accident in a fishing net is **bycatch**.
quota /ˈkwəʊtə/	A fishing **quota** limits how much fish can be caught.
marine protected area	A **marine protected area** can give fish stocks space to recover.

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aquaculture /ˈækwəkʌltʃə/	Raising fish in ponds is **aquaculture**.
• **point source** /pɔɪnt sɔːs/	A small lamp acts as a **point source** of light.
non-point source	Runoff from many farms is a **non-point source** of pollution.
thermal pollution /ˈθɜːml pəˈluːʃn/	Hot wastewater causes **thermal pollution** in a river.
biochemical oxygen demand	High **biochemical oxygen demand** means bacteria are using a lot of the oxygen in the water.
indicator species /ˈɪndɪkeɪtə ˈspiːsiːz/	An **indicator species** shows how clean or dirty the water is.
biotic index	A **biotic index** uses living things to judge water quality.
eutrophication /juːtrəfɪˈkeɪʃn/	**Eutrophication** happens when fertiliser runs into a lake.
red tide	A **red tide** is a huge growth of algae that can be poisonous.
dead zone	Few animals can live in a **dead zone**, where there is almost no oxygen.
Lake Tai	Too much algae has polluted **Lake Tai**.
buffer strip	A strip of grass, called a **buffer strip**, catches runoff before it reaches the stream.

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