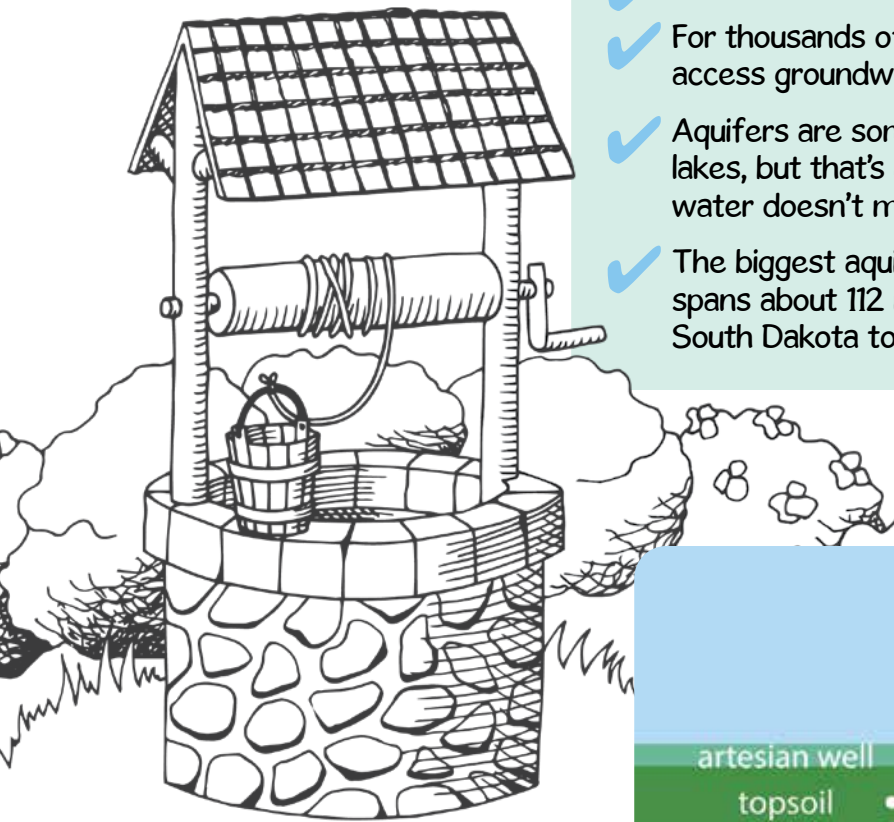


Aquifers

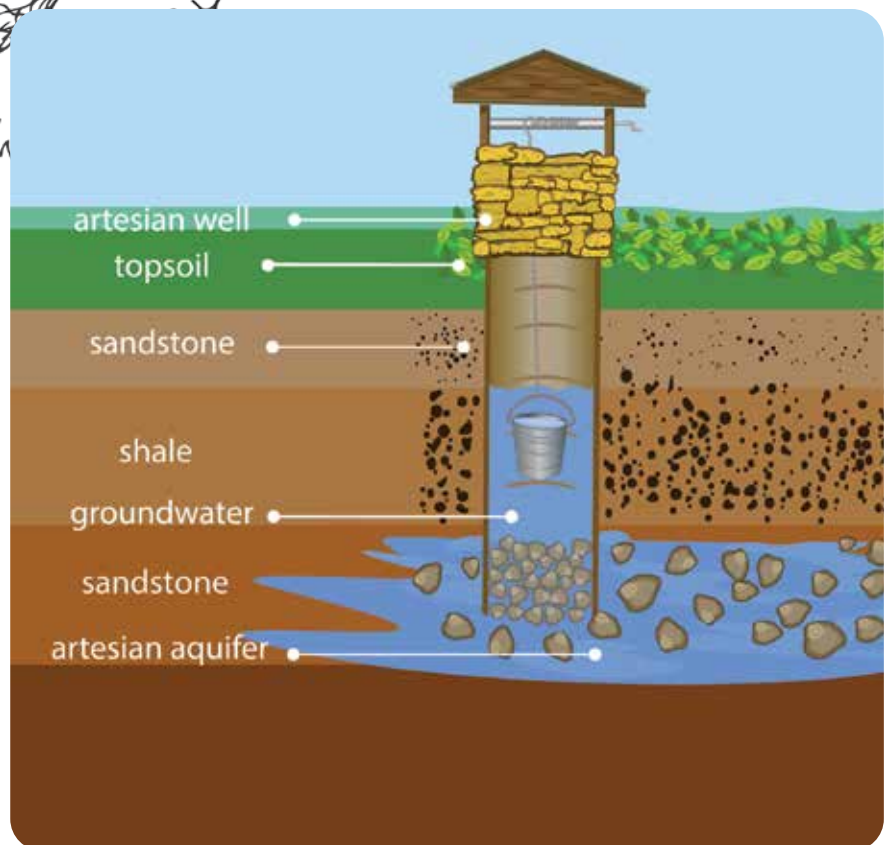
Color the well below.



If you pour syrup on your pancakes, what happens next? Everything on your plate gets soaked! That's like how aquifers work. Aquifers are empty areas beneath Earth's surface that become saturated with groundwater. As precipitation fills the oceans, rivers, and lakes, it also enters surrounding rocks. This creates huge storehouses of water—sometimes at depths of over 6,000 feet! Did you also know . . .

- ✓ Our earth has both freshwater and saltwater aquifers.
- ✓ For thousands of years, people have dug or drilled wells to access groundwater.
- ✓ Aquifers are sometimes called underground rivers or lakes, but that's not the best way to describe them. The water doesn't move freely like it does at the surface.
- ✓ The biggest aquifer in the U.S. is the Ogallala Aquifer. It spans about 112 million acres across eight states, from South Dakota to Texas.

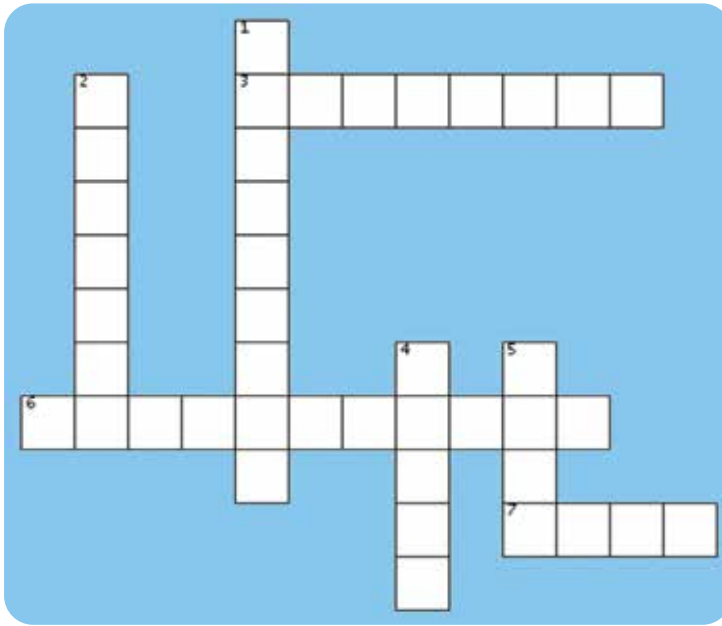
Aquifer



Did you know?

Groundwater provides about half of the world's drinking water. Usually, it's fresh water that's filtered naturally, but sometimes it can be contaminated. For people with wells, safety measures are taken to prevent chemicals, germs, and other pollutants from reaching the water.

Aquifer Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

3. The largest U.S. aquifer
6. The water found below Earth's surface
7. A large surface body of fresh water

DOWN

1. A substance that ruins something
2. A storehouse of groundwater
4. The planet you inhabit
5. A structure drilled to access water

Find all the wells in the picture below.



Answers: 1. pollutant, 2. aquifer, 3. Ogallala, 4. earth, 5. well, 6. groundwater, 7. lake