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|---------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. abrasion | the wearing away of rock chiefly by currents of water carrying sand and other rock debris and by glaciers | 19. mechanical weathering | the process of weathering during which physical forces, such as abrasion by particles in moving water or ice, break down or reduce a rock to smaller and smaller fragments, involving no chemical change |
| 2. algal bloom | a rapid increase in population, especially of algae, that brings about the discolouration of the water in which they are growing | 20. non-portable water | water not suitable for drinking, cooking or bathing |
| 3. aquifer | a permeable layer of rock capable of yielding quantities of ground water to wells and springs. Such as in the Great Artesian Basin | 21. pathogen | a disease-causing organism |
| 4. atmosphere | the mixture of gases surrounding the Earth's surface | 22. pollution | the addition of materials to the environment (such as air, water and soil) that harm organisms that normally live there under natural conditions |
| 5. autotroph | a living thing that can supply its own food | 23. precipitation | any or all of the forms of water, whether liquid or solid, that fall from the atmosphere and reach the ground, such as rain, hail and snow |
| 6. biosphere | the parts of the Earth (air, land and water) where living organisms can be found | 24. tailing | sediments left over after mining |
| 7. chemical weathering | a type of weathering where rocks and minerals are changed into new, fairly stable chemicals by dissolving and chemical reactions | 25. turbidity | the cloudy or hazy appearance of water caused by the suspension of clays or other fine particles |
| 8. conservation | the act of preserving for future generations our natural resources, especially plants and animals, and their environment | 26. water table | the surface beneath ground level between the zones of saturation and of aeration |
| 9. desiccation | drying out | | |
| 10. eutrophication | the process by which bodies of water, such as lakes, become enriched with dissolved nutrients; this may result in much growth of algae and other organisms with an equivalent drop in dissolved oxygen | | |
| 11. gamma radiation | the part of the electromagnetic spectrum with the shortest wavelength | | |
| 12. glacier | a large mass of moving ice that gouges large amounts of rock and soil from the ground beneath | | |
| 13. heterotroph | an organism that is unable to make its own food and thus depends on other organisms as a source of food | | |
| 14. hydrological (water) cycle | the complete cycle through which water passes from the oceans, through the atmosphere, to the land and back to the ocean | | |
| 15. hydrosphere | all liquid and frozen surface waters, ground water held in soil and rock and atmospheric water vapour | | |
| 16. ice wedging | when water freezes to form ice, it expands and the ice acts like a wedge to force open cracks in the rock | | |
| 17. joint | a crack in a rock where neither side has moved relative to the other | | |
| 18. lithosphere | solid mantle and crust of the earth | | |