



The Water Beneath Your Feet

by Ellen Lawrence

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Consultant:

Shawn W. Wallace

Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences
American Museum of Natural History
New York, New York

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From Sky to Ground

When it rains, water falls from the sky and splashes onto the ground.

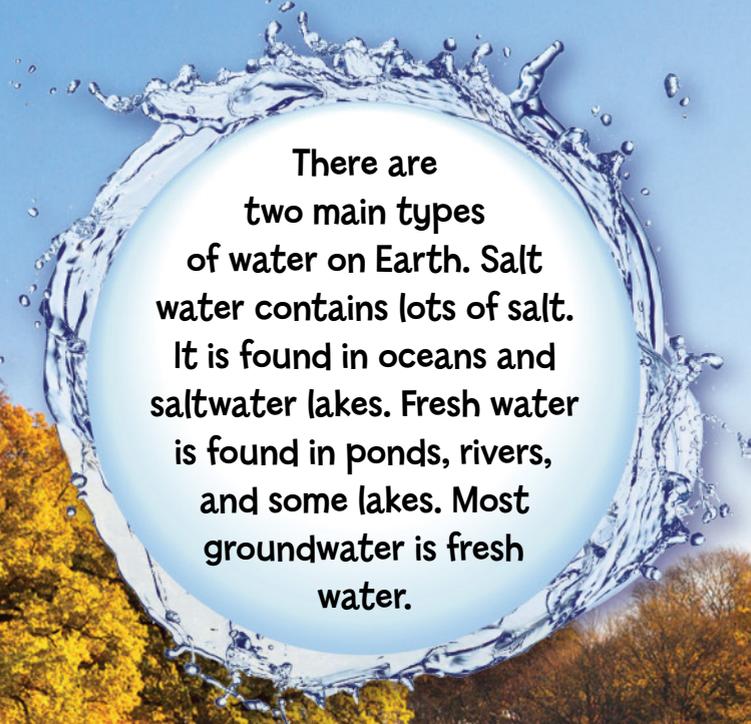
The rainwater soaks into flowerbeds.

It trickles down cracks in sidewalks and roads.

You can't see the water, but it's still there—underground!

This water, called groundwater, is very important to life on Earth.





There are two main types of water on Earth. Salt water contains lots of salt. It is found in oceans and saltwater lakes. Fresh water is found in ponds, rivers, and some lakes. Most groundwater is fresh water.



freshwater lake

Trickling Down and Down

Under the ground, rainwater trickles between tiny spaces in the **soil**.

The water moves down and down to the rocky layers beneath the soil.

It trickles between gravel and stones, and seeps into tiny cracks in rocks.

Eventually, the groundwater reaches solid rock and can go no farther.



Without groundwater, plants could not survive. Trees, grass, and other plants take in water from the soil with their roots.



rain

roots

water trickling through soil

gravel and stones

water seeping into cracks in rock

solid rock

Besides trickling into the soil when it rains, in what other ways do you think water can get into the ground?
(You will find some ideas on page 24.)