



Day 1 - Fact Sheet 2

Tales of the Todd-Read all about it!

How Water Recycles

Water is constantly moving around. It can change states - from liquid to solid (ice) or to gas (water vapour). In the natural environment, you can follow water through a continuous cycle (referred to as the water cycle or the hydrologic cycle), from the atmosphere to the earth and back. The amount of water remains the same but can follow many different pathways to and from the earth.

Liquid fresh water falls as rain, or in solid form as hail or snow (precipitation). Due to gravity, it tends to keep moving along drainage lines towards the lowest point in the landscape, and collects either on the earth's surface (surface water) or in the ground (ground water). Sometimes drainage can occur as sheet flow across flat gently sloping land surfaces; sometimes drainage lines are just small indentations in the land surface, but they can also be as large as major creek or river systems. Sometimes the water runs into the sea, but in central Australia it runs inland.

Wherever this rainwater ends up, it enters into other systems eg it may for example, soak into the ground and get trapped in a porous rock layer (aquifer) where it can be accessed by a bore and become part of a water supply system; or it may be taken up by plants or used as drinking water by animals; or it may get trapped in a river system and perform a range of different functions as it flows across the landscape.

Each of these systems eventually allows the water to be returned to the water cycle eg some water from the water supply system will evaporate into the atmosphere; a plant sends water out of its pores by evapo-transpiration; water in river systems will evaporate. Water vapour in the atmosphere will then be moved around by air currents and eventually, as they get cooler, collect in cloud formations (condensation) where it then becomes ready to fall again as rain (or sleet or snow).

Water educational links

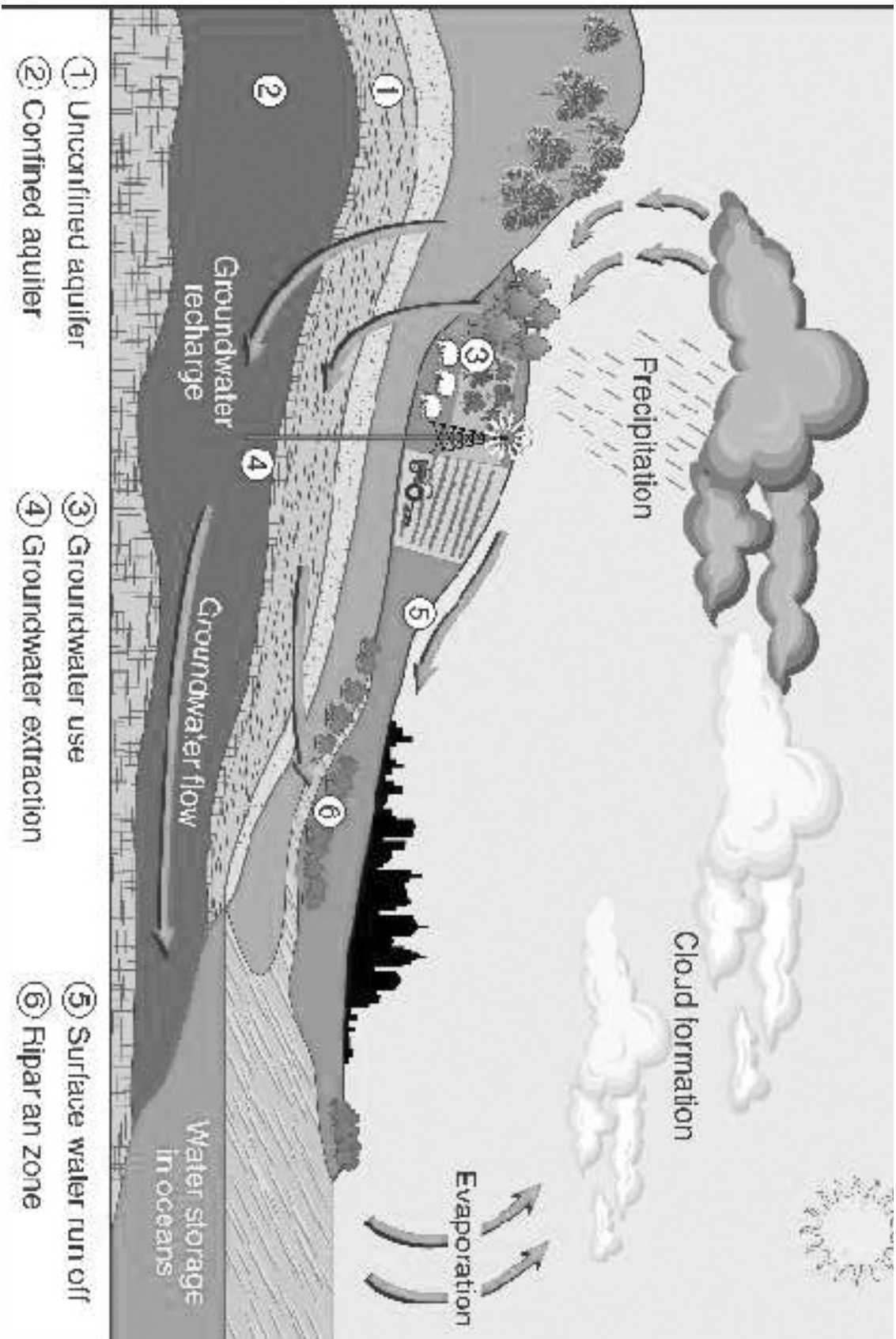
Australian Links

<http://www.per.clw.csiro.au/education/groundwater/facts.html>

<http://www.lpe.nt.gov.au/advis/water/facts/pdf/SWInformation.pdf>

<http://www.lpe.nt.gov.au/advis/water/ground/default.htm>

<http://www.lpe.nt.gov.au/advis/water/ground/basics.htm>



Drawing of "Todd River"
 By: Anthony
 Age: 8

