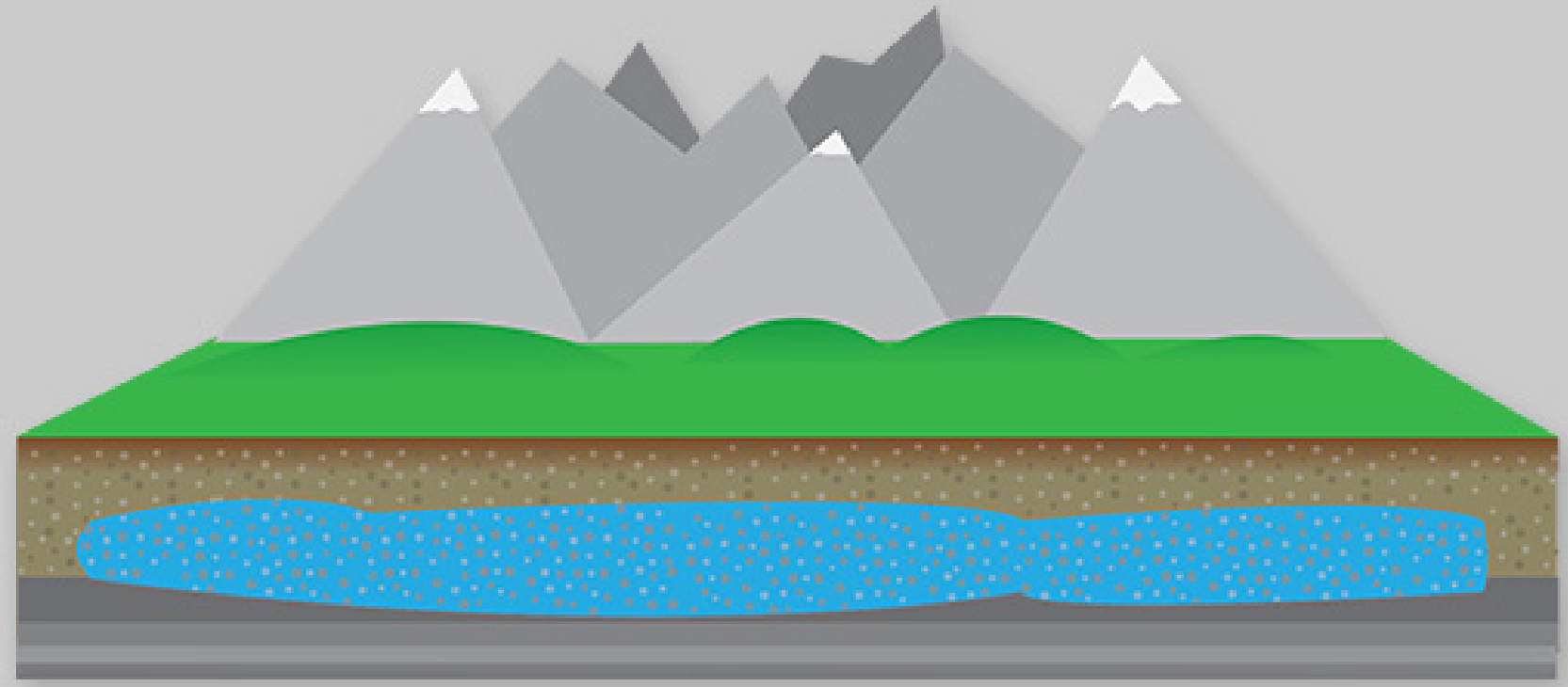
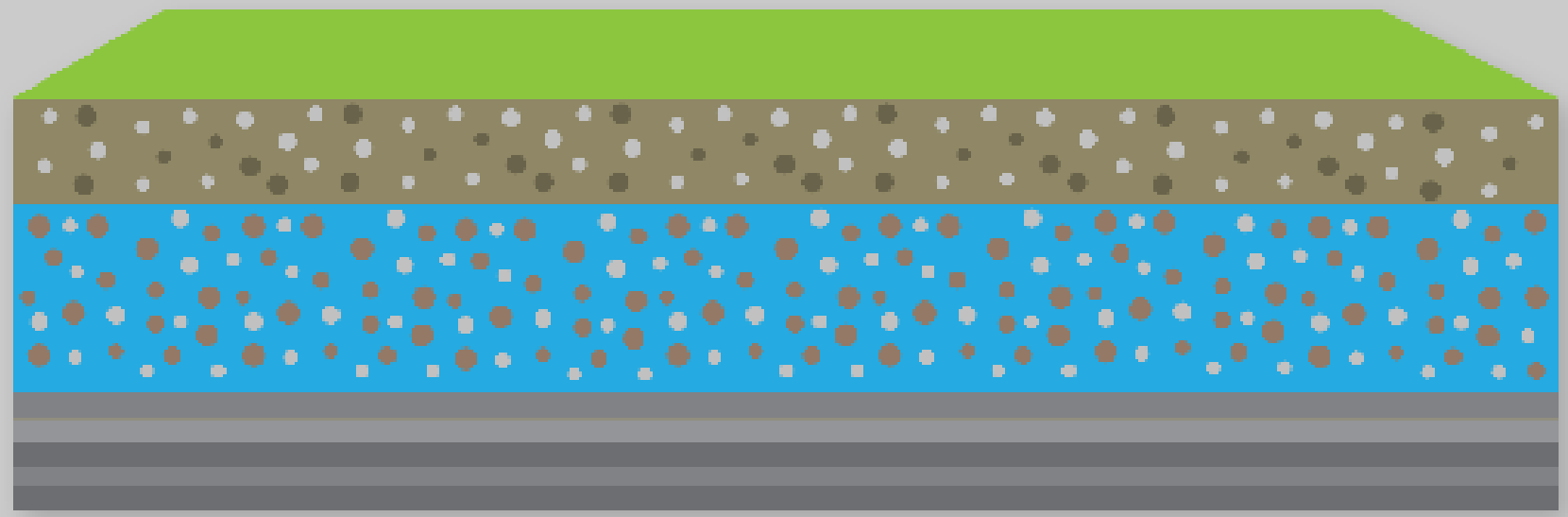
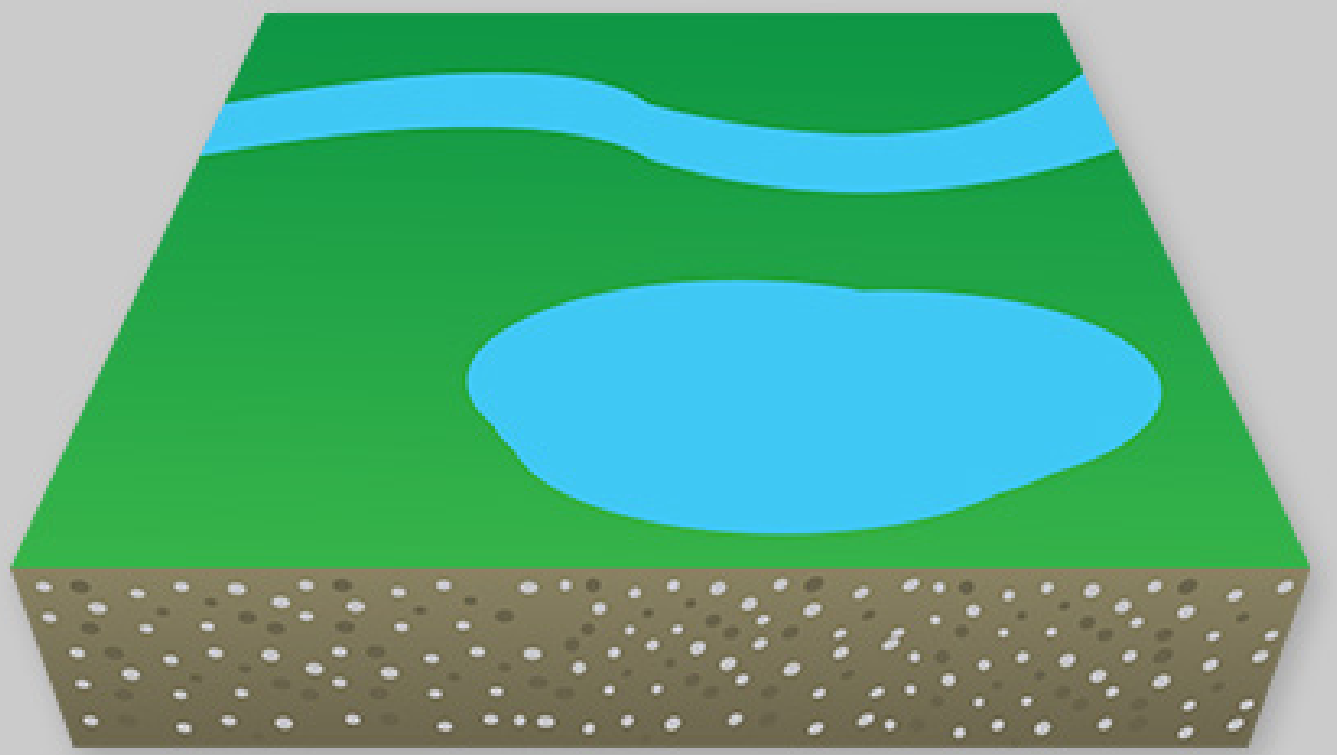


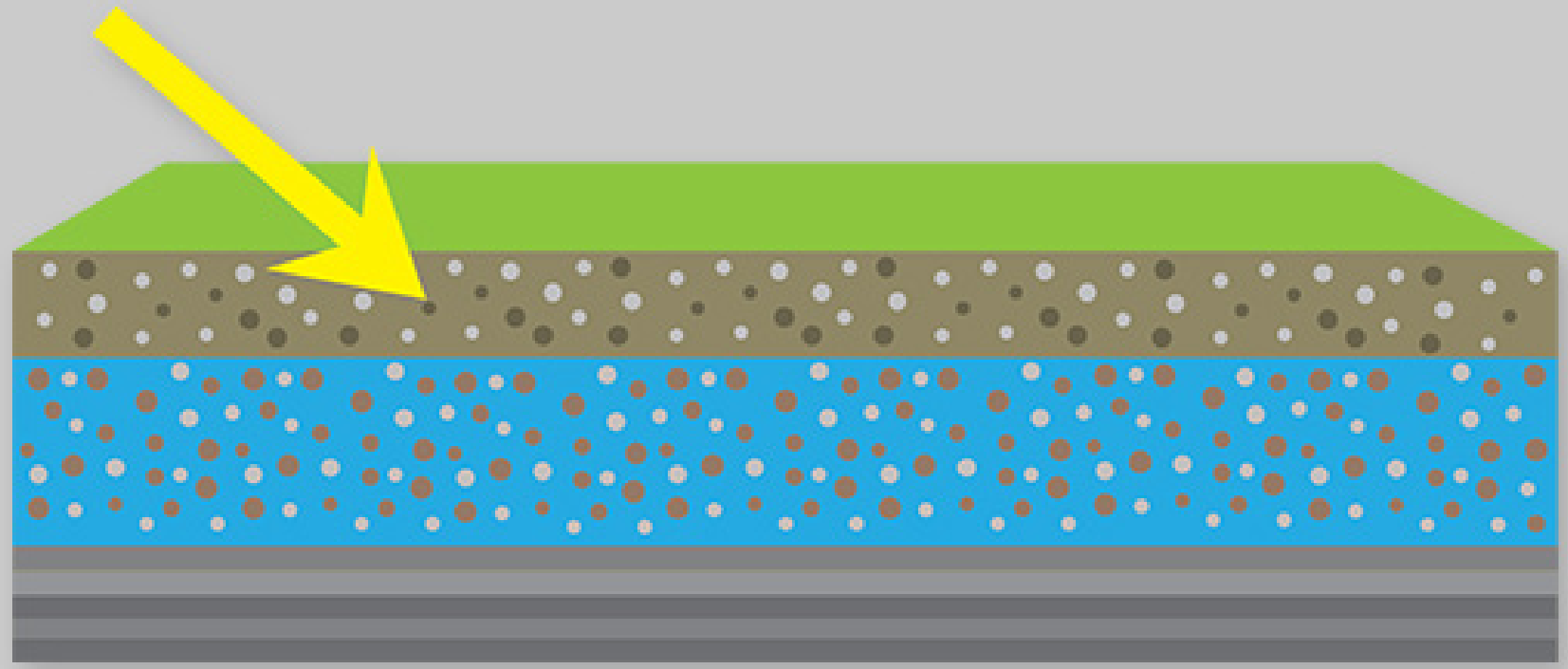
An **aquifer** is an underground layer of sand, gravel, or rock that holds water.



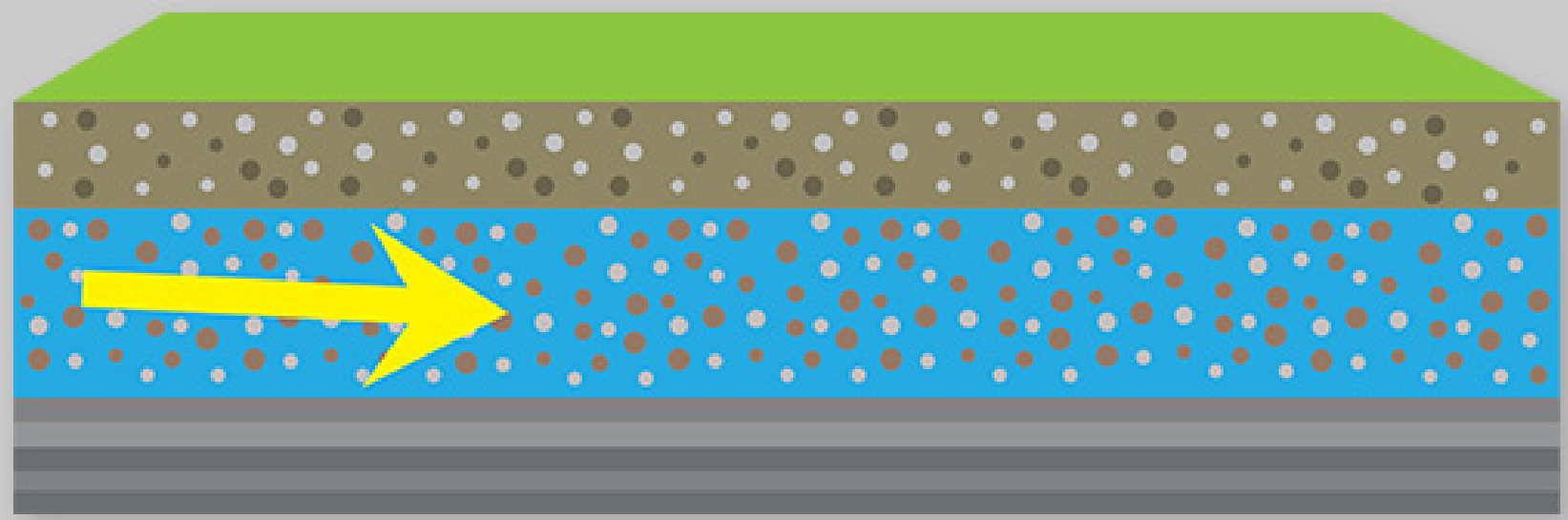
Groundwater is water found below the surface of the Earth, usually stored in aquifers.



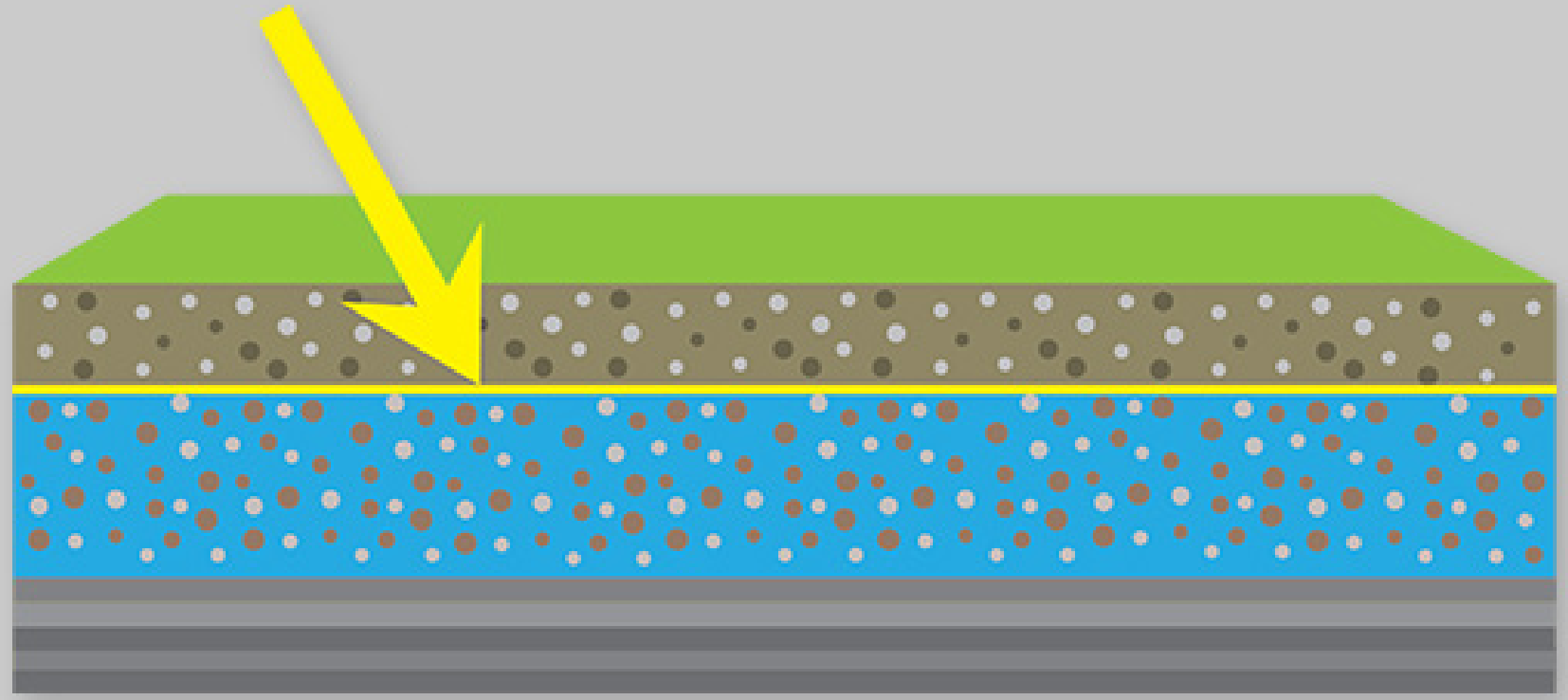
Surface water is water found on the surface of the Earth.



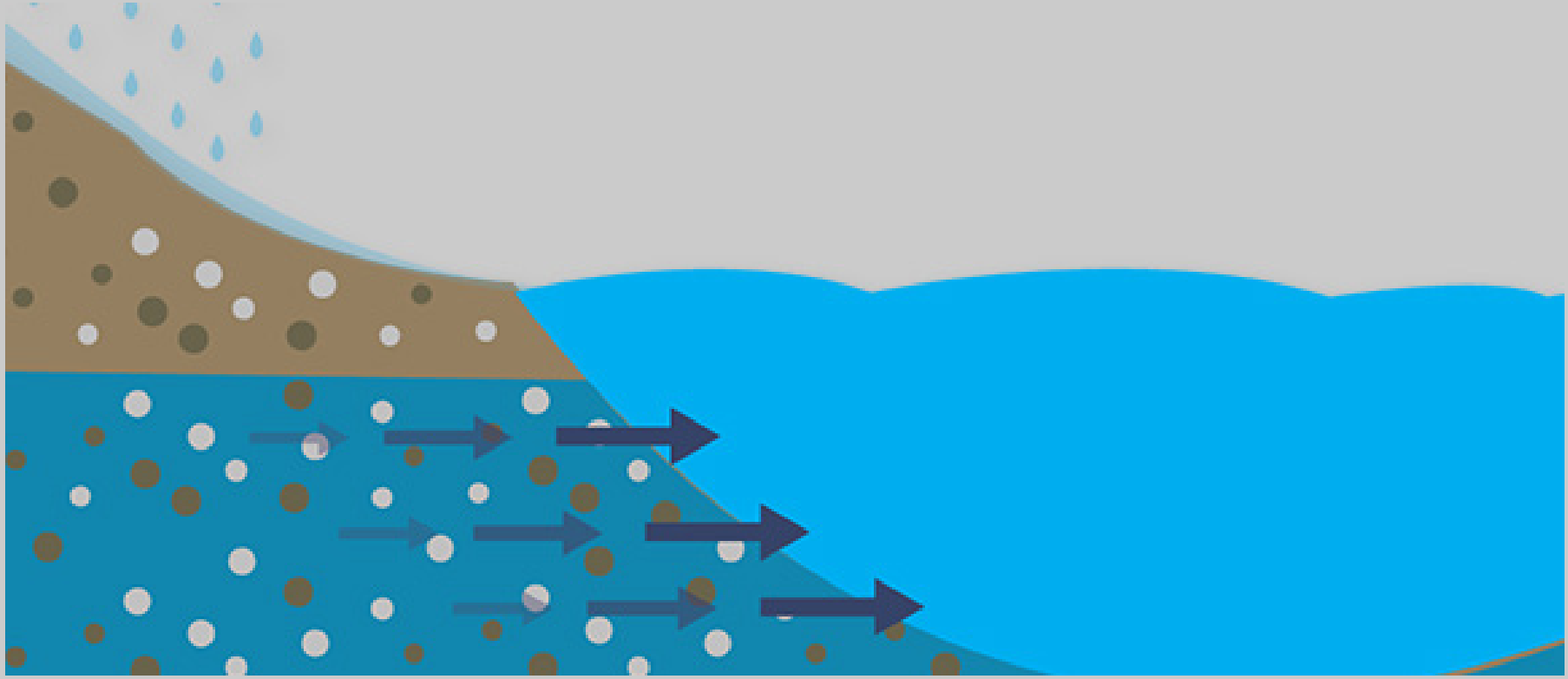
The **unsaturated zone** is the region under ground where water hasn't filled the spaces between soil and sediment.



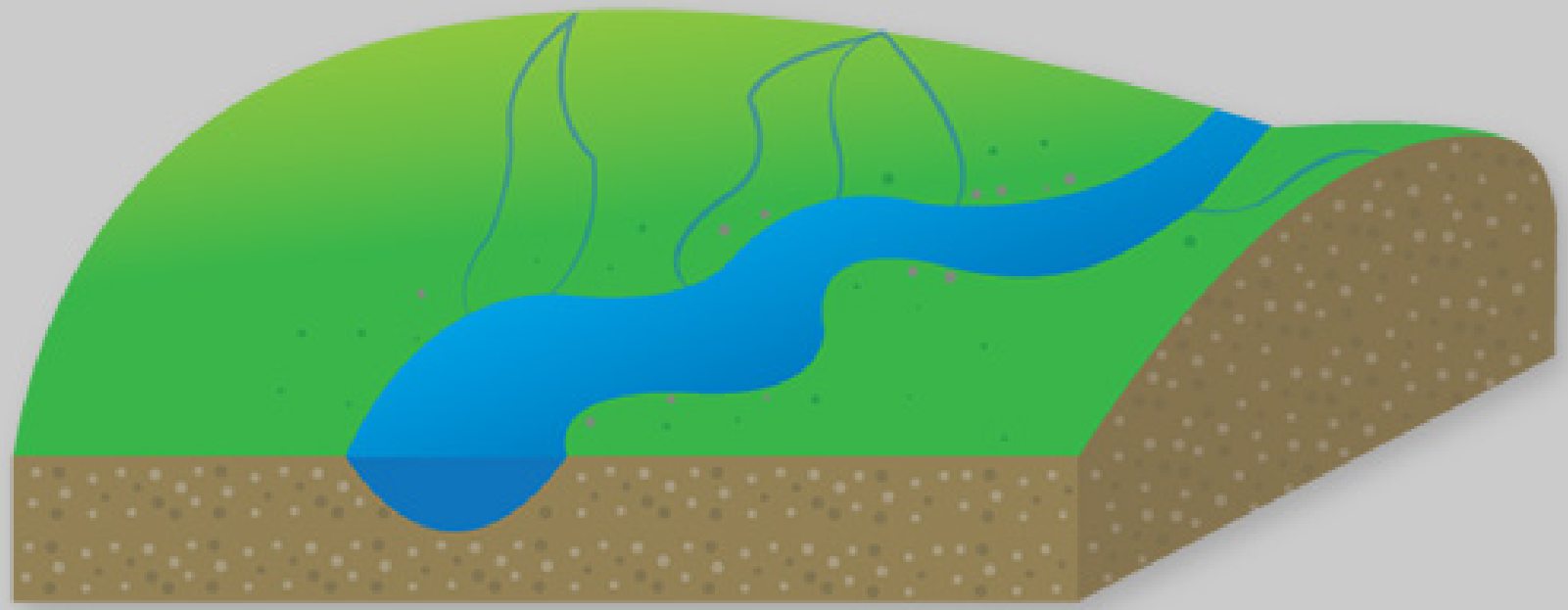
The **saturated zone** is the region under ground where water fills all the space between pieces of soil and sediment.



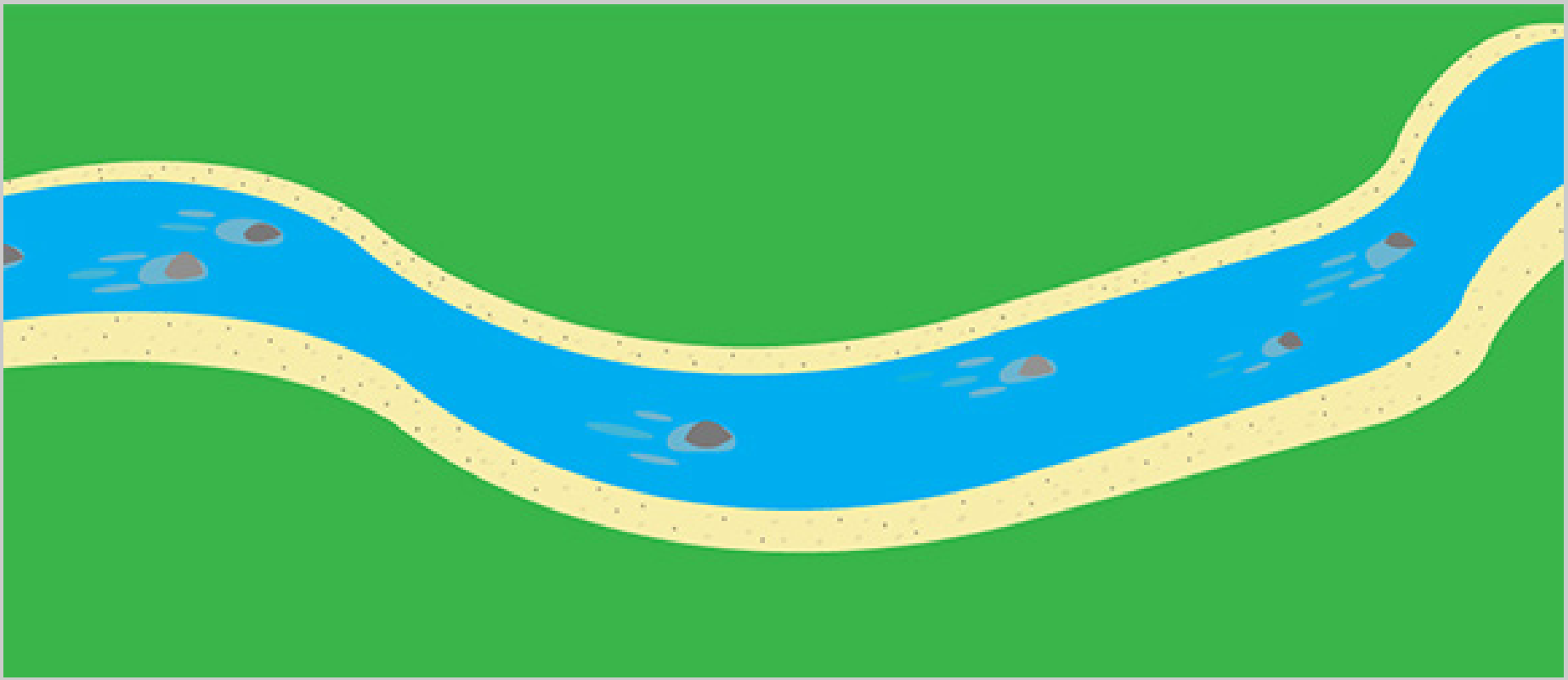
The **water table** is the top of an area of water-filled ground.



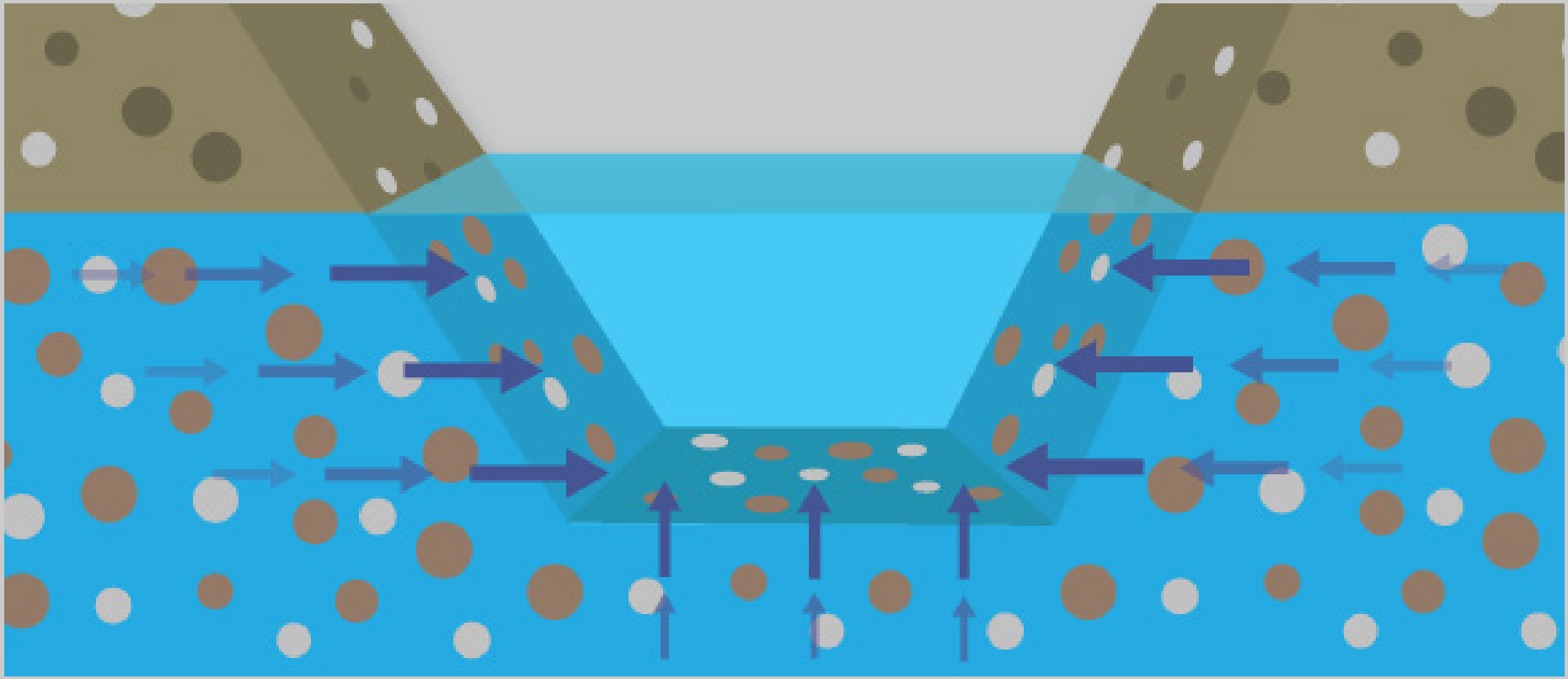
Baseflow is the amount of stream water that flows from underground sources.



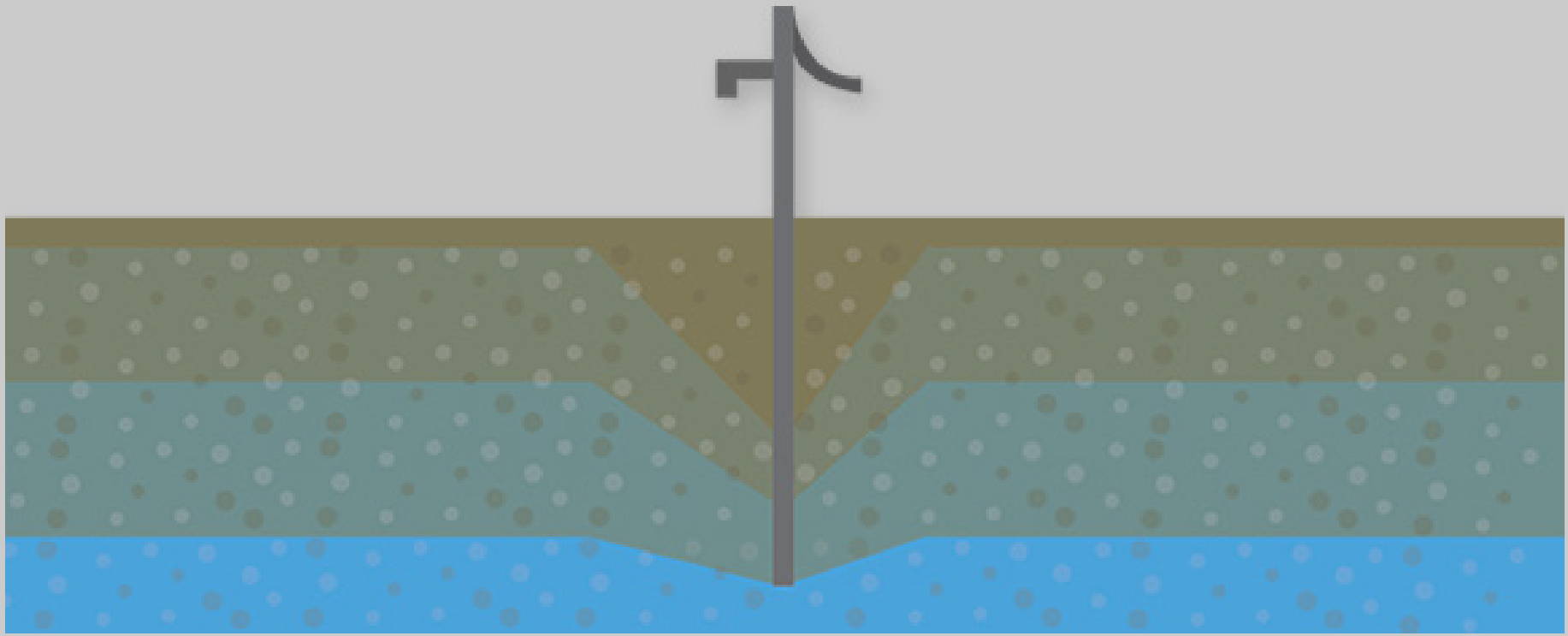
A **river** is a large body of flowing water, created by many smaller streams flowing together.



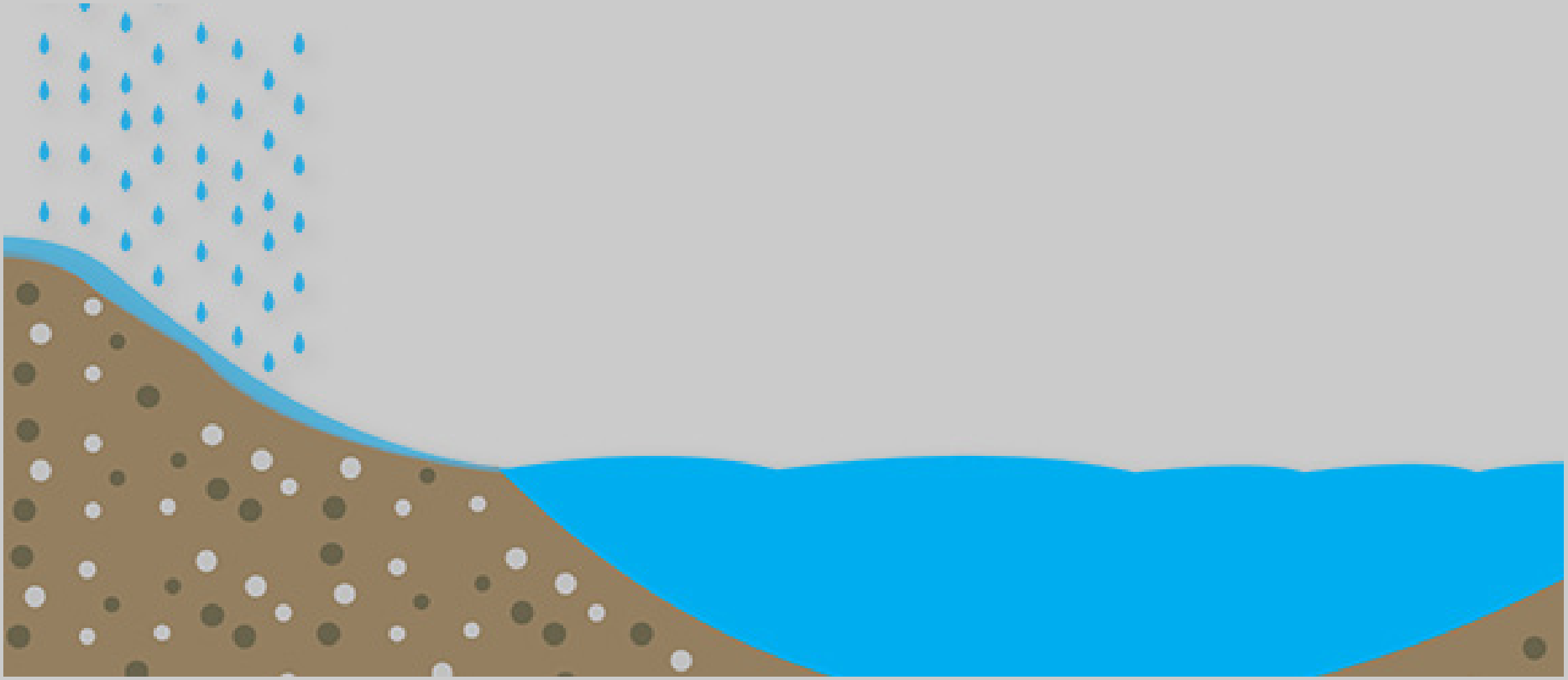
A **stream** is a body of water with a current, contained in a channel with a bed and banks.



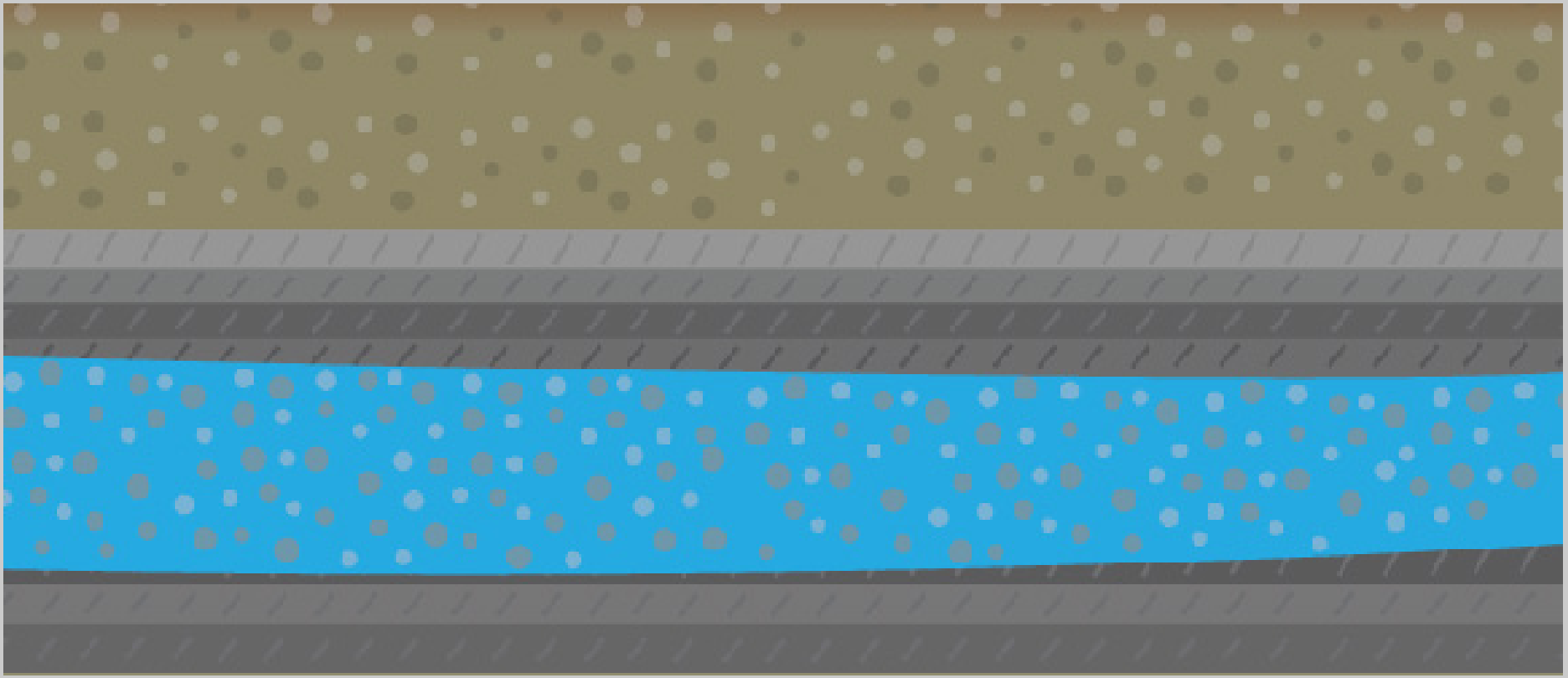
Any place where groundwater flows out into the surface is called a **spring**.



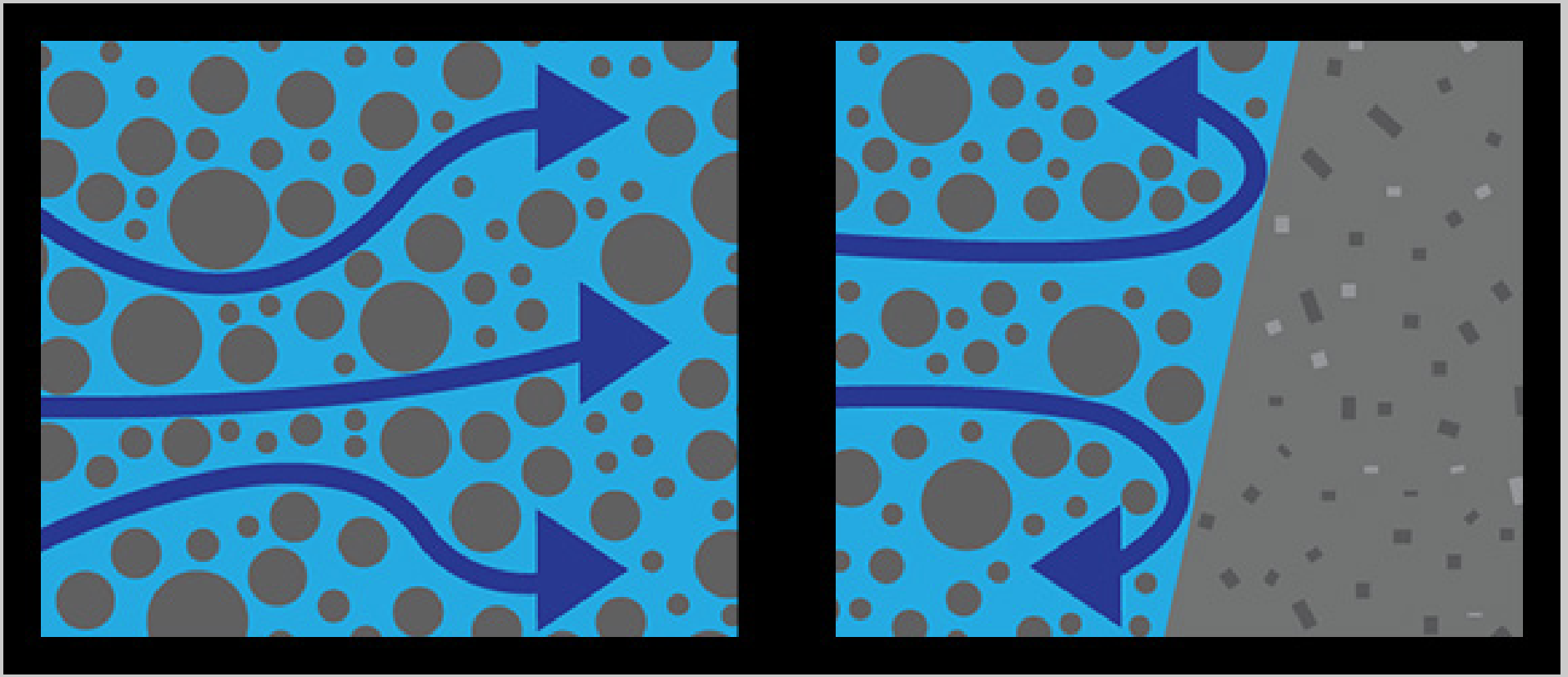
Drawdown occurs when water is removed from the ground faster than it can be replaced.



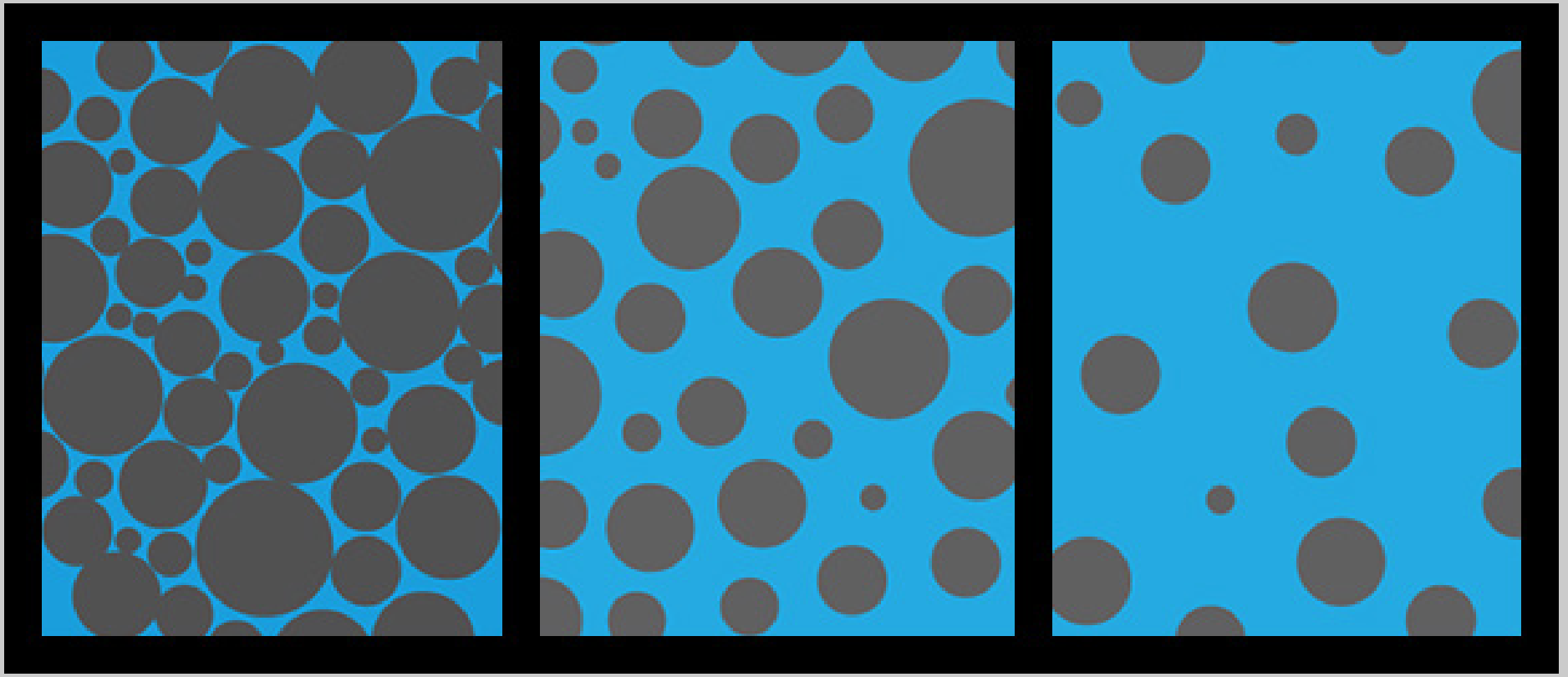
Runoff is rainwater that flows over the surface of the ground and into streams and other bodies of surface water.



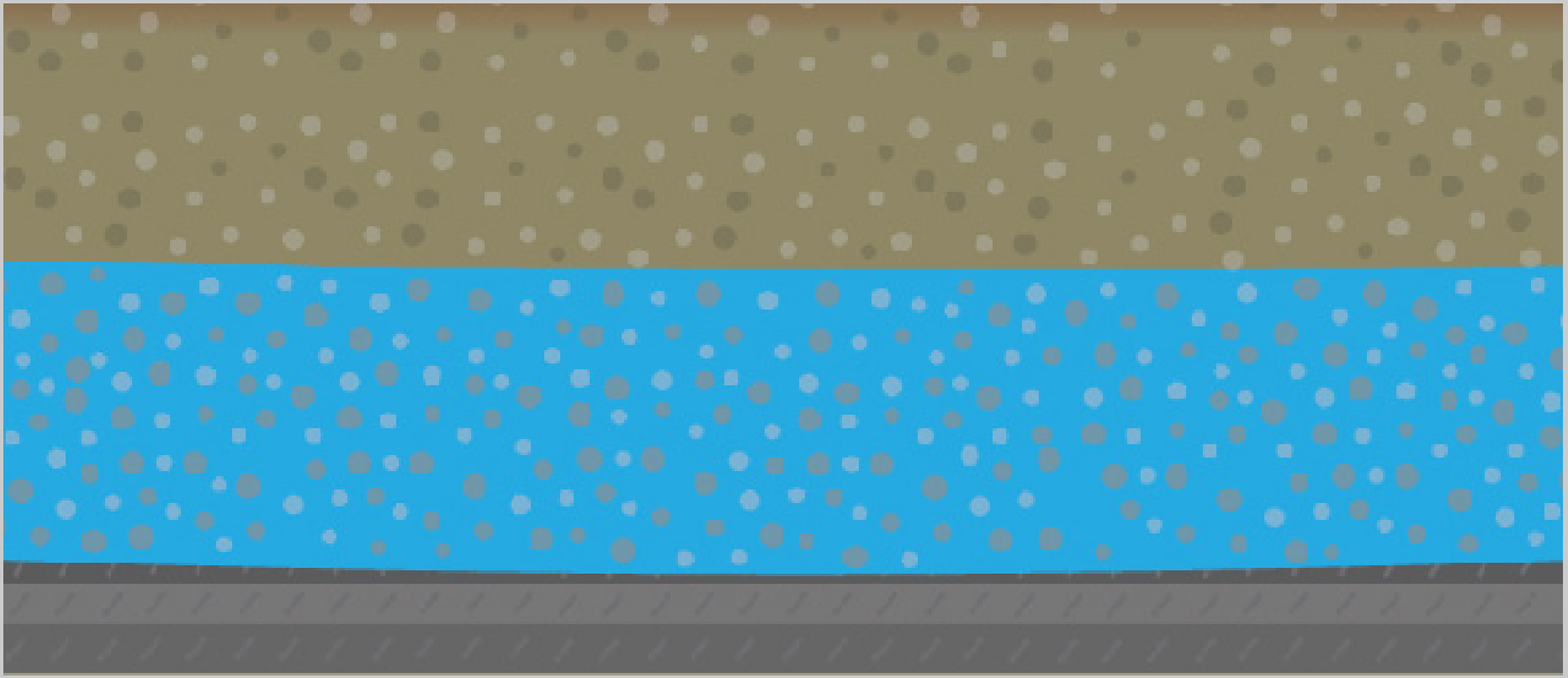
A **confined aquifer** is an aquifer bounded on top by a dense layer of sediment or rock that water can't pass through.



The **permeability** of the ground is a measure of how easily water can flow through it.



The **porosity** of the ground is the amount of empty spaces in it that can hold liquids like water.



An **unconfined aquifer** is an aquifer with no confining layer of dense sediment or rock on top.