

Augusta Canal National Heritage Area
Grade 7-12 Water Quality
Science Vocabulary

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| Aquifer | A geologic sub-surface formation, group of formations, or part of a formation that contains sufficient saturated, permeable material to yield useful quantities of ground water to wells and springs |
| Microbes | Organisms too small to be seen with the naked eye — bacteria, fungi, microscopic algae, protozoa, and viruses — also called microorganisms. |
| Organic | Substances that come from animal or plant sources. Organic substances always contain carbon. (Inorganic materials are chemical substances of mineral origin.) |
| Inorganic | Material such as sand, salt, iron, calcium salts and other mineral materials. Inorganic substances are of mineral origin, whereas organic substances are usually of animal or plant origin. |
| Pesticide | Chemical mixture used to kill pests and insects |
| Herbicide | Chemical substance used to destroy or inhibit the growth of plants, especially weeds |
| Coagulation | To cause transformation of (a liquid or sol, for example) into or as if into a soft, semisolid, or solid mass. |
| Flocculation | The process by which individual particles of clay aggregate into clot like masses or precipitate into small lumps. Flocculation occurs as a result of a chemical reaction between the clay particles and another substance, usually salt water. |
| Sedimentation | is a physical water treatment process used to settle out suspended solids in water under the influence of gravity. |
| Filtration | The act or process of filtering, especially the process of passing a liquid or gas, such as air, through a filter in order to remove solid particles. |
| Disinfection | To cleanse so as to destroy or prevent the growth of disease-carrying microorganisms |
| Reservoir | A natural or artificial pond or lake used for the storage of water |

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| Dissolved Oxygen | - the amount of gaseous oxygen dissolved in an aqueous solution. It gets in by diffusion of surrounding air, aeration (rapid movement), and as a waste product of photosynthesis. |
| pH | - the measure of hydrogen (h+) ion concentration. "P" standing for "Potential" and "H" standing for "hydrogen". The more hydrogen ions present will make the water more basic, or alkaline. The less H+ will make the water more acidic. The scale is measured from 0-14. 7 is neutral. So below 7 reading would be acidic and above 7 would be basic. |
| Fish Kills | <p>an instance of a lot of fish being killed</p> <p>When aquatic life within a lake, or stream dies in a mass extinction</p> |