

WATER - A VALUABLE RESOURCE

Can you imagine what life would be like without clean water? Each day, man-made and natural **pollutants** collect on the surface of the land. Anything we dump or spill on the ground may be carried over or through the ground by moving water. When it rains, pollutants are washed into streams, rivers and other water bodies. Storm water is a powerful force washing loose soil, excess **fertilizers** and **pesticides**, automobile fluids, soap, animal waste, and even **litter** into streams and rivers. Careless behavior like this causes drinking water sources to become **contaminated**, thus wildlife **habitat** may be destroyed. Since the amount of water we have is the same since the earth's formation, and we can not make any more, we say that water is a **non-renewable natural resource**.



SURFACE WATER

Using a globe, answer the following questions.

- 1) The blue parts of the globe show that ____% of the earth's surface is covered by water.
- 2) Water located on the earth's surface is called **surface water**.
List 5 different kinds of bodies of water that would be considered surface water.

- 3) What is the largest river in North America that begins in Minnesota and flows south to the Gulf of Mexico? _____
- 4) What group of American lakes contains 20% of the earth's fresh, surface water?

- 5) Where would you find 2% of earth's fresh, surface water in a solid form?

- 6) People, animals and plants need to **consume** fresh water to live. What percent of earth's surface water is salt water? _____ In what large bodies of water is most of this salt water located? _____