Aim:

What is groundwater?

Materials Needed:

(for each pair of students)

- 2 sponges
- Plastic wrap
- Cup for water storage
- Plastic basin for experimentation

Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- ✓ Define groundwater and explain how it gets into the Earth.
- ✓ Describe the connection between surface and groundwater.
- ✓ Determine the source of their own drinking water.

Engage

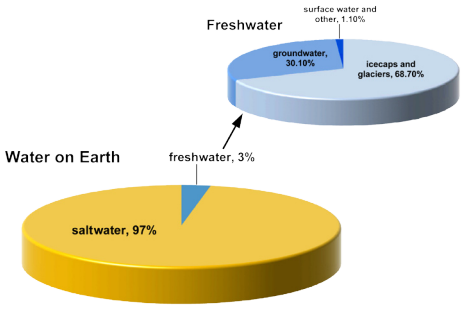
Ask:

Have you ever dug a very deep hole in the ground? What would happen if you kept digging?

Most students will have heard that if one digs deep enough, they will hit water.

Say:

"In the last lesson, we discovered that 97% of water on Earth is saltwater and 3% of water is freshwater. Freshwater is found or stored in groundwater, ice and various **surface waters** which means water at the surface."



What is the difference between groundwater and fresh surface water?

Allow students to provide definitions of each term. Each is part of the 3%.

-Groundwater is fresh water stored beneath the ground.
-Surface water includes all the water on the surface of the Earth. Fresh surface water includes lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, wetlands, etc. Salt water in the oceans is also part of the total surface water on Earth.

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