Vocabulary: Porosity

Vocabulary

- Aquifer – a saturated body of rock or *sediment* that is *permeable* enough to yield useful amounts of water in a spring or well.
- Gravel – loose sediment that consists mostly of grains that are larger than 2 mm in diameter.
- Permeability – the ability of a sediment or rock to transmit fluid.
- Porosity – the percentage of pore space in a volume of rock or sediment.
  - To calculate the porosity, divide the volume of pore space by the total volume of the sediment.
  - To calculate percentage porosity, multiply the porosity by 100.
- Sand – loose sediment that consists of grains between 0.0625 mm and 2 mm in diameter.
  - Sand grains commonly consist of quartz, calcite, or a mixture of minerals.
  - Sand grains are larger than *silt* particles but smaller than gravel.
- Saturated – filled with water.
- Sediment – solid materials that have been transported and then deposited.
  - There are three main categories of sediments: rock fragments, chemical precipitates, and organic remains.
    - Examples of rock fragments include gravel, sand, and silt.
    - Examples of chemical precipitates include calcium carbonate, calcium sulfate, and sodium chloride (salt).
    - Examples of organic remains include shell fragments, coral, skeletal remains, and plant remains.
- Silt – loose sediment that consists of grains between 0.0039 mm and 0.0625 mm in diameter.
  - Silt particles are larger than clay particles but smaller than sand grains.
- Surface water – water that is not absorbed into the ground (or other surface) and remains on top.