

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Beneath Our Feet: The Secret World of Groundwater in the Water Cycle

### Short Answer Key

1. The water table is the upper surface of groundwater, representing the boundary between the saturated and unsaturated zones. It can rise or fall based on factors like rainfall and water use.
2. Recharge is the process of replenishing groundwater through the infiltration of precipitation or surface water. Discharge is when groundwater flows back to the surface and enters bodies of water.
3. Groundwater can feed into rivers and streams during dry periods, maintaining their flow and benefiting ecosystems.
4. Sustainable groundwater management is essential to prevent over-pumping and the lowering of water tables, which can harm ecosystems and future water availability.
5. Groundwater sustains wetlands by providing a constant source of water. This supports wetland habitats and contributes to biodiversity.

