

Name _____

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

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Answers may include discussions of over-pumping's impacts on water tables, land subsidence, and saltwater intrusion, as well as solutions like water conservation, aquifer recharge, and regulation of groundwater use.
2. Responses may vary but could include awareness campaigns, water-saving practices, and community involvement in sustainable water management.
3. Reflect on the vital role of groundwater in wetland ecosystems, such as habitat provision, water purification, and flood control. Discuss potential threats from groundwater depletion and the importance of protecting these environments.
4. Consider the shared nature of groundwater resources in transboundary aquifers and the need for international agreements and cooperation to manage and protect them sustainably. Discuss challenges and benefits of such collaboration.

