

IT'S RAINING! ACTIVITY FOUR



DID YOU KNOW...

That there is a layer of porous rock under the ground which works just like a rock sponge, holding millions of gallons of water that has filtered down through the earth over millions of years. These "piggy banks" of water are a critical part of the Natural Water Cycle. They are called **Aquifers**.

In the olden days? Pre-urban. Well we rained on the trees and plants, a jolly soft landing! And there was all this lovely leaf litter to soak into – Oh I enjoyed that.

Some of us ran off the ground in a hurry into creeks, rivers and the sea, but not many. Most of us soaked into the ground and some of us even made it to the aquifers. When plants and trees drank us they 'breathed' us out, back into the clouds to do it all again.

the trees caught us gently

runoff

soak in

interflow

baseflow

The rest of us were turned into beautiful tiny droplets of water vapour by that old Sun – and that's how we got back to the clouds. Oh those were the days Zachary! Those were the days!

Not so much of that happens nowadays. No Sir! No these young raindrops have jolly hard landings you know – on lawns, paddocks, roof tops, roads and concrete. And dirty business too. Those young raindrops end up drenched in filthy chemicals – and they cart all those toxic chemicals with them.

No plants to break and slow the fall. But worse, nothing to soak into, so the raindrops haven't got a choice. They all race for the storm water drains, the creeks and the rivers to the sea. And Zachary, there are so many of them racing to the sea they cause havoc with erosion and flooding.

surface run off

FLOODING & MAYHEM

... but myself, I think the real shame of it is that without that slow soaking into the earth, very few raindrops make it to that precious underground "piggybank" of stored water. But I've heard that the people in your city are looking into these matters. That's a relief for an old fellow like me!

Have you ever made up a 'fortunately / unfortunately' story? (e.g. I went parachuting, unfortunately the parachute didn't open, fortunately I had a reserve parachute, unfortunately.....etc).

Read this page then make up a fortunately / unfortunately story about one raindrop's adventures in the water cycle. Tell the story to someone else.