

## Glossary

Term	Definition
alluvium	Detrital deposits made by streams on river beds, floodplains and alluvial fans; especially a deposit of silt or silty clay laid down during time of flood. The term applies to stream deposits of recent time. It does not include subaqueous sediments of seas and lakes.
anticline	A fold, generally convex upward, whose core contains the stratigraphically older rocks.
aquifer	A body of rock that is sufficiently permeable to conduct groundwater and to yield economically significant quantities of water to wells and springs.
brecciated	Angular broken rock fragments held together by a mineral cement or a fine-grained matrix.
colluvial	Pertaining to colluviums, which is a general term applied to loose and incoherent deposits, usually at the foot of a slope or cliff and brought there chiefly by gravity. Talus and cliff debris are included in such deposits.
coulee	In the northwestern U.S. it is a dry or intermittent stream valley, especially a long trench-like gorge that once carried melt water from an ice sheet.
dike	A tabular body of igneous rock that cuts across the structure of adjacent rocks or cuts massive rocks.
dip	The angle that a stratum or any planar feature makes with the horizontal, measured perpendicular to the strike and in the vertical plane.
emplacement	The process of intrusion of igneous rocks. The localization of ore minerals by any process; ore deposition.
evapotranspiration	That portion of the precipitation returned to the air through evaporation and transpiration.
facies	The aspect, appearance, and characteristics of a rock unit, usually reflecting the conditions of its origin; especially as differentiating from adjacent or associated units.
felsic	A mnemonic adjective derived from feldspar and silica and applied to an igneous rock having abundant light-colored minerals; also applied to those minerals (quartz, feldspars, feldspathoids, muscovite) as a group.
hardpan	A hard, impervious, often clayey layer of soil at or just below the surface, produced by cementation of soil particles by relatively insoluble materials such as silica, iron oxide, and organic matter.

Term	Definition
Holocene	An epoch of the Quaternary period, from the end of the Pleistocene, approximately 8,000 years ago, to the present time; also the corresponding series of rocks and deposits.
hydrograph	A graph showing stage, flow, velocity, or other characteristics of water with respect to time.
hydraulic continuity	The scientific term that describes how easily water flows between groundwater and surface water (streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands.)
infiltration	The flow of a fluid into a solid substance through pores or small openings; specifically the movement of water into soil or porous rock.
interbed	A bed, typically thin, of one kind of rock material occurring between alternating with beds of another kind.
loess	A blanket deposit of buff-colored calcareous silt, homogeneous, nonstratified, weakly coherent, porous, and friable. A rude vertical parting allows it to stand in steep or vertical faces. It is considered to be windblown dust of Pleistocene age.
Miocene	An epoch of the early Tertiary period, after the Oligocene and before the Pliocene; also the corresponding worldwide series of rocks.
Missoula flood	Also known as the Spokane Floods or Bretz Floods, refer to the cataclysmic floods that swept periodically across Eastern Washington and down the Columbia River Gorge during the last ice age. Geologists estimate the flooding occurred around a 2,000-year period between 15,000 and 13,000 years ago.
monocline	A local steepening in an otherwise uniform gentle dip.
paleoslope	The direction of initial dip of a former land surface, such as an ancient continental.
perched aquifer	An aquifer that occurs above the regional water table, in the vadose zone. This occurs when there is an impermeable layer of rock or sediment, above the main water table but below the surface of the land.
piezometer	A small diameter observation well used to measure the hydraulic head of groundwater in aquifers.
Pleistocene	An epoch of the Quaternary period, after the Pliocene of the Tertiary and before the Holocene; also the corresponding worldwide series of rocks. It began 2 to 3 million years ago and lasted until the start of the Holocene some 8,000 years ago.

Term	Definition
Quaternary	The second period of the Cenozoic era, following the Tertiary; also the corresponding system of rocks. It began 2 to 3 million years ago and extends to the present.
scabland	An elevated area, underlain by flat-lying basalt flows, with a thin soil cover and sparse vegetation, and usually with deep, dry channels scoured into the surface. In Eastern Washington the lava plateau was widely and deeply eroded by glacial melt waters.
steptoe	An isolated hill or mountain of older rock surrounded by a lava flow.
suprabasalt	Sedimentary strata above the basalt.
syncline	A fold of which the core contains the stratigraphically younger rocks; it is generally concave upward.
tholeitic flood basalt	A basalt characterized by the presence of orthopyroxene and/or pigeonite in addition to clinopyroxene and calcic plagioclase. Olivine may be present.
vesicle	A small cavity in an aphanitic or glassy igneous rock, formed by the expansion of a bubble of gas or steam during the solidification of the rock.

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