

Name: _____ Date: _____

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Vocabulary:

"Our World Turned to Water"

1. frigid (FRIJ-id) *adjective*; Frigid means "very, very cold." A frigid wind stings your cheeks. Antarctica has a frigid climate.

When *frigid* is used to describe a person or a behavior, it means "cold" as in lacking emotional warmth. A frigid greeting is not friendly or enthusiastic. Severus Snape is a frigid character.

2. mobilize (MOH-buh-layz) *verb*; To mobilize something is to make it mobile—that is, able to be moved. *Mobilize* is often used to describe bringing people or things together, organizing them, and preparing them for action. A government might mobilize troops for war. You might mobilize your classmates to donate canned food to a food bank.

3. oversaturated (oh-ver-SACH-uh-rey-tid) *adjective*; The verb *saturate* means "to soak or completely fill something with as much liquid as it can hold." A rainstorm may saturate the soil in a garden. When *over* is used as a prefix, it means "too much" or "over the limit." So when something is oversaturated, it is drenched in more liquid than it can handle. If a garden's soil becomes oversaturated, the garden is flooded and the plants will likely be damaged.

Oversaturated can also be used to talk about a thing being too full of something other than liquid. If a neighborhood is oversaturated with coffee shops, there are more coffee shops in the neighborhood than there are customers to go to them.

4. recede (rih-SEED) *verb*; *Recede* means "to move back or farther away," or "to grow less or smaller." You might watch a train recede into the distance. Your fear of riding a roller coaster might recede when you realize that the coaster doesn't go upside down.

5. salvage (SAL-vij) *verb or noun*; As a verb, *salvage* means "to rescue or collect something that is in danger of being lost or destroyed." People often return to their homes after a fire to see if they can salvage any of their belongings.

As a noun, *salvage* is the act of saving things (as in, "we helped salvage the items") or what you call items that were saved (as in, "she piled the salvage over there").

6. torrent (TOR-uhnt) *noun*; A torrent is a rushing stream of water or some other liquid. You would have to shout to be heard over the roaring torrents of water at Niagara Falls.

Torrent can also refer to a flood of something other than a liquid, as in, "Chris received a torrent of fan mail after winning *The Voice*."

7. tributary (TRIB-yuh-ter-ee) *noun*; You may be familiar with the verb *contribute*, meaning "to add to something larger or provide a part of the whole." The meaning of *contribute* can help you remember the meaning of *tributary*: a small stream or river that flows into—or contributes to—a larger stream, river, lake, or other body of water.

Directions: In the space below or on the back of this page, list any other words from the article whose definitions you are not sure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence using the word.

Vocabulary Practice

"Our World Turned to Water"

Directions: Underline the boldfaced word in each pair that best completes the sentence.

1. Henry stepped into the **frigid/oversaturated** morning air, the snow crunching beneath his boots.
2. The detective used binoculars to watch the mysterious woman as she slowly **salvaged/receded** into the dark alley.
3. Marissa and her mom are going door-to-door, trying to **mobilize/salvage** voters to participate in the upcoming election.
4. Immediately after the fire alarm sounded, a **torrent/tributary** of water sprayed down from the sprinkler in the ceiling.

Directions: Rewrite each sentence below using a form of one of the words in the box. (You won't use all of the words.)

tributaries	torrent	salvage	recede	oversaturate
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5. The researchers will study the items recovered from the sunken ship to help them learn why the ship sank.

6. When you water that plant, be careful not to pour more water on the soil than it can handle.

7. If the small streams that flow into Lake Michigan become polluted, Lake Michigan will also become polluted.
