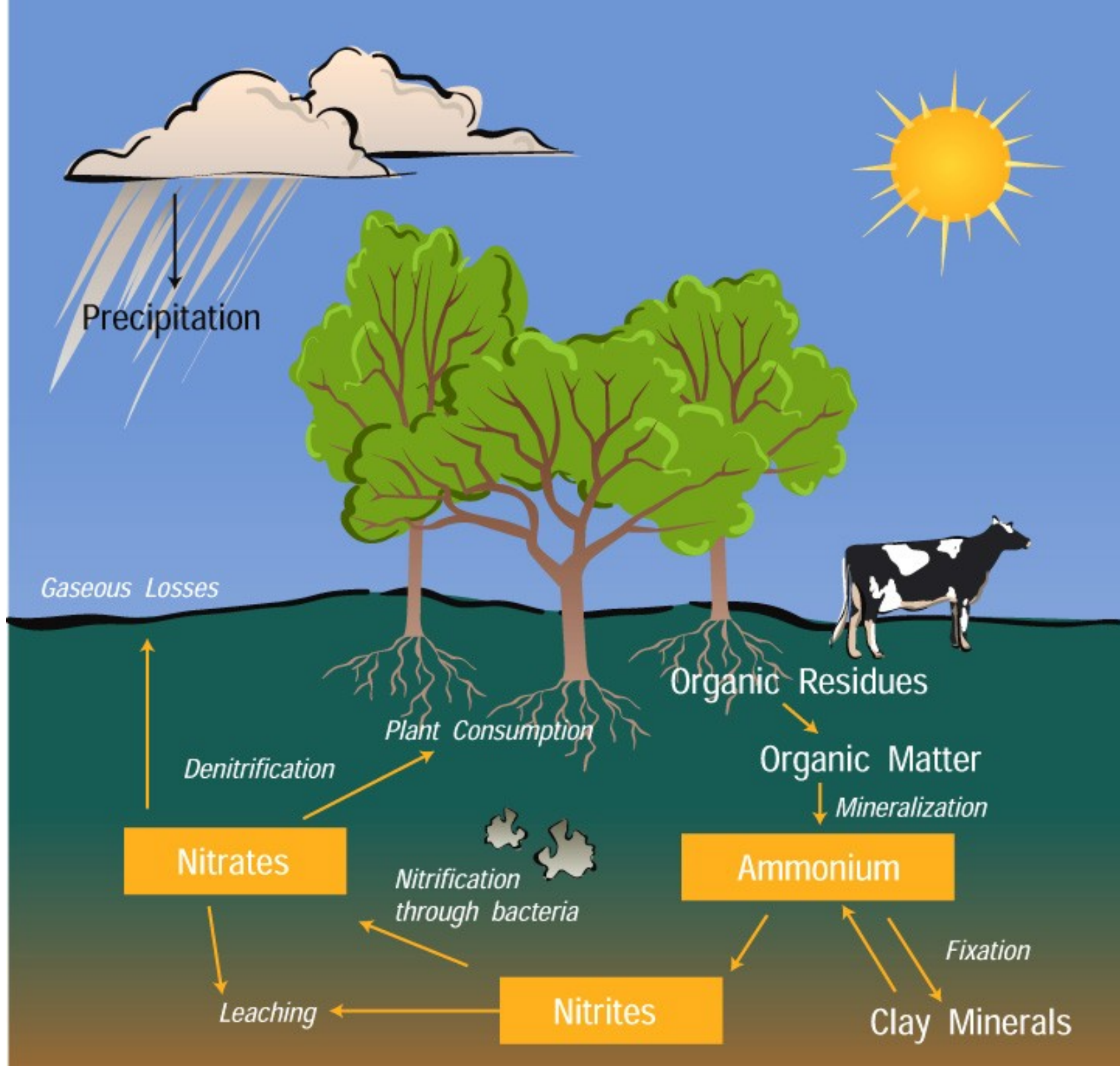
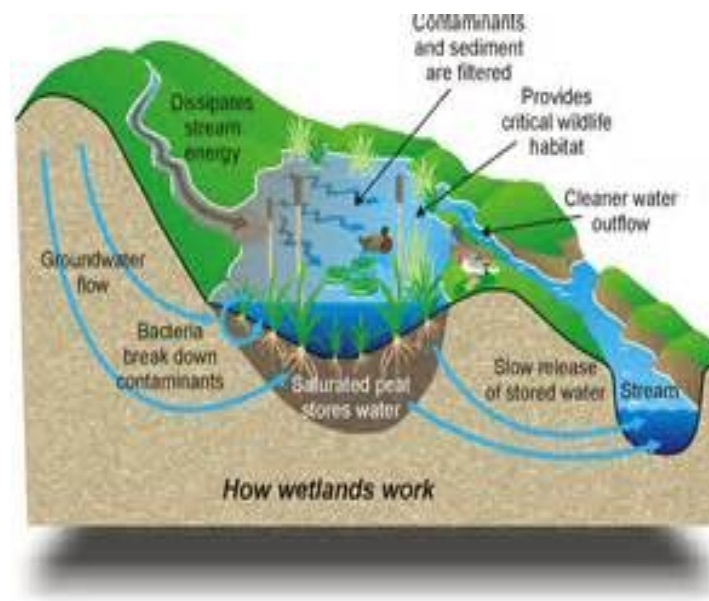


Water is a transparent and nearly colorless [chemical substance](#) that is the main constituent of Earth's [streams](#), [lakes](#), and [oceans](#), and the [fluids](#) of most living [organisms](#). Its [chemical formula](#) is H<sub>2</sub>O, meaning that its [molecule](#) contains one [oxygen](#) and two [hydrogen atoms](#), that are connected by [covalent bonds](#). Water strictly refers to the [liquid](#) state of the substance, that prevails at [standard ambient temperature and pressure](#); but it often refers also to its [solid](#) state ([ice](#)) or its [gaseous](#) state ([steam](#) or [water vapor](#)). It also occurs in nature as [snow](#), [glaciers](#), [ice packs](#) and [icebergs](#), [clouds](#), [fog](#), [dew](#), [aquifers](#), and atmospheric [humidity](#).





Water covers 71% of the Earth's surface.[1] It is vital for all known forms of [life](#). On Earth, 96.5% of the planet's crust water is found in seas and oceans, 1.7% in groundwater, 1.7% in glaciers and the ice caps of Antarctica and Greenland, a small fraction in other large water bodies, and 0.001% in the [air](#) as [vapor](#), [clouds](#) (formed of ice and liquid water suspended in air), and [precipitation](#).<sup>[2][3]</sup> Only 2.5% of this water is [freshwater](#), and 98.8% of that water is in ice (excepting ice in clouds) and [groundwater](#). Less than 0.3% of all freshwater is in rivers, lakes, and the atmosphere, and an even smaller amount of the Earth's freshwater (0.003%) is contained within biological bodies and manufactured products.<sup>[2]</sup> A greater quantity of water is found in the earth's interior.<sup>[4]</sup>

Water on Earth moves continually through the [water cycle](#) of [evaporation](#) and [transpiration](#) ([evapotranspiration](#)), [condensation](#), [precipitation](#), and [runoff](#), usually reaching the sea. Evaporation and transpiration contribute to the precipitation over land. Large amounts of water are also chemically combined or [adsorbed](#) in [hydrated minerals](#).

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