

A Well of a Way to Get Water

In places where surface water is scarce, people cannot survive without groundwater. Wells are extremely important to people living in these areas, as they provide a reliable and plentiful supply of water for homes, irrigation, and industries.

There are several methods of putting in a well. Wells can be dug, pole-driven, or drilled. Most modern wells today are drilled using a rig. If the ground is soft and the water table is shallow, wells can be dug using a shovel. However, a hole cannot be dug deeper than the water table, as it will fill with water.

Driven wells are built by pounding a small-diameter pole into the soft earth. Attached to the bottom of the pole is a screen that filters out sand and other particles. These wells can only get shallow water, which often becomes contaminated with pollutants.

The most modern technique for building wells is by drilling using a rig. These rigs can easily drill wells more than 1,000 feet deep. After the well is dug, a pump is used to get the water to the surface. The pumps are able to send water right to your faucet.

Changes in water levels can cause problems with wells. Changes in rainfall and droughts greatly affect the level of the groundwater. If a well is pumped at a faster rate than its underground water recharges, then the water level drops. The water level can also be lowered if other wells near it are withdrawing too much water. When water levels drop below the levels where the pump takes in water, the well goes dry.



The Challenges – Teacher Resources

Reading Response Questions

A Well of a Way to Get Water

- Short Response

Modern technology allows drills to go deep into the earth to provide wells for homes, schools, and businesses. Explain how water is able to go from 1,000 feet underground to a faucet in your home.

- Extended Response

Wells are a great resource for obtaining water. However, there are times when wells go dry.

Give two reasons why a well might go dry and explain the effects.
