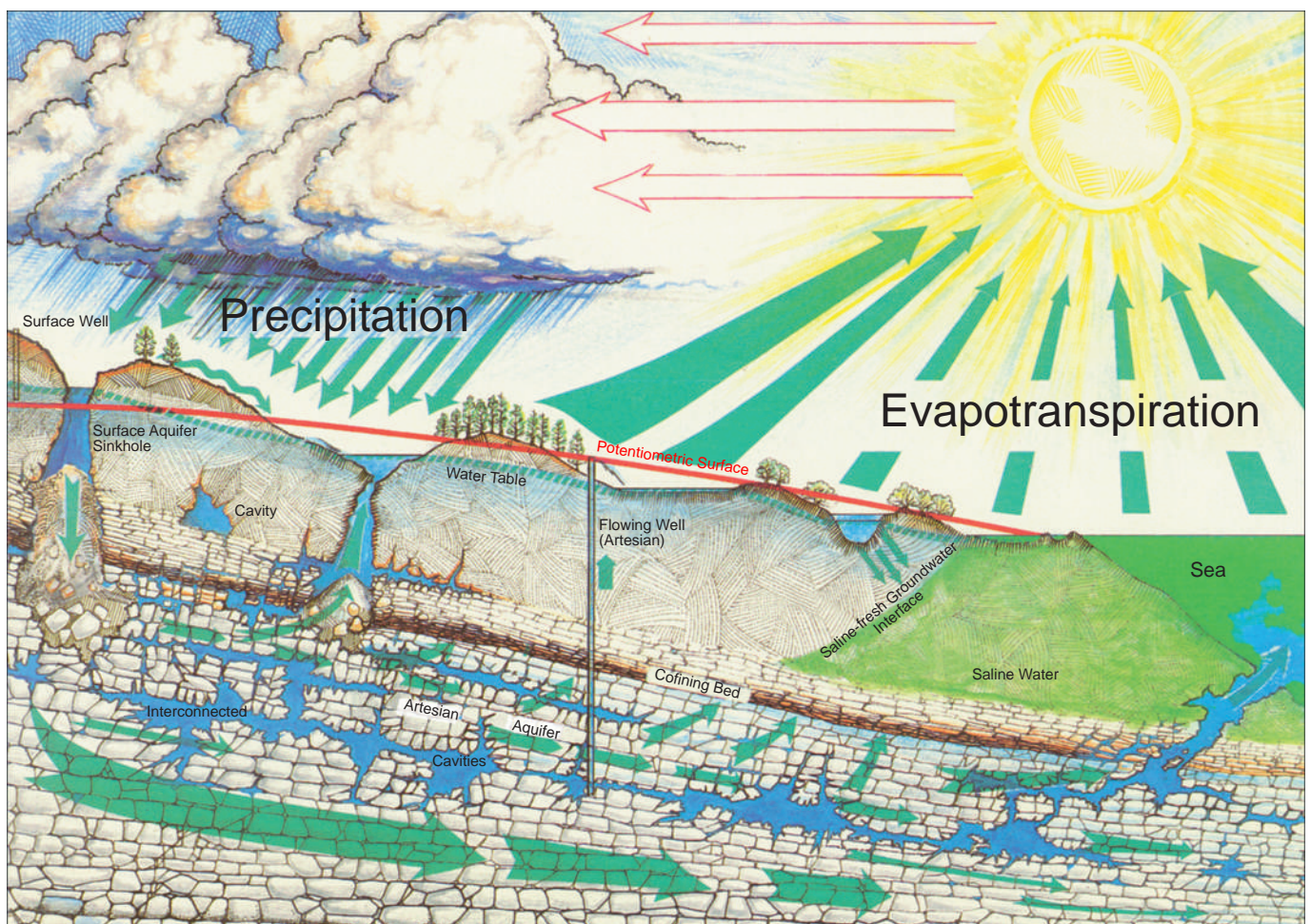


Hydrologic Cycle

All of the Earth's water moves endlessly through the **Hydrologic Cycle**. In other words, you drink the same water that the dinosaurs drank 65 million years ago. The hydrologic cycle is a closed, circular system: there is no beginning or end.



As solar energy hits the Earth's surface, water in lakes and streams evaporates (becomes a gas) and rises into the atmosphere. When the vapor hits the cool air of the upper atmosphere, it condenses back to liquid water and forms clouds. When conditions are right, rain or other forms of precipitation fall to the ground. Precipitated water then hits the ground where it will either flow across the surface, evaporate, or seep into the ground and enter the groundwater system.



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