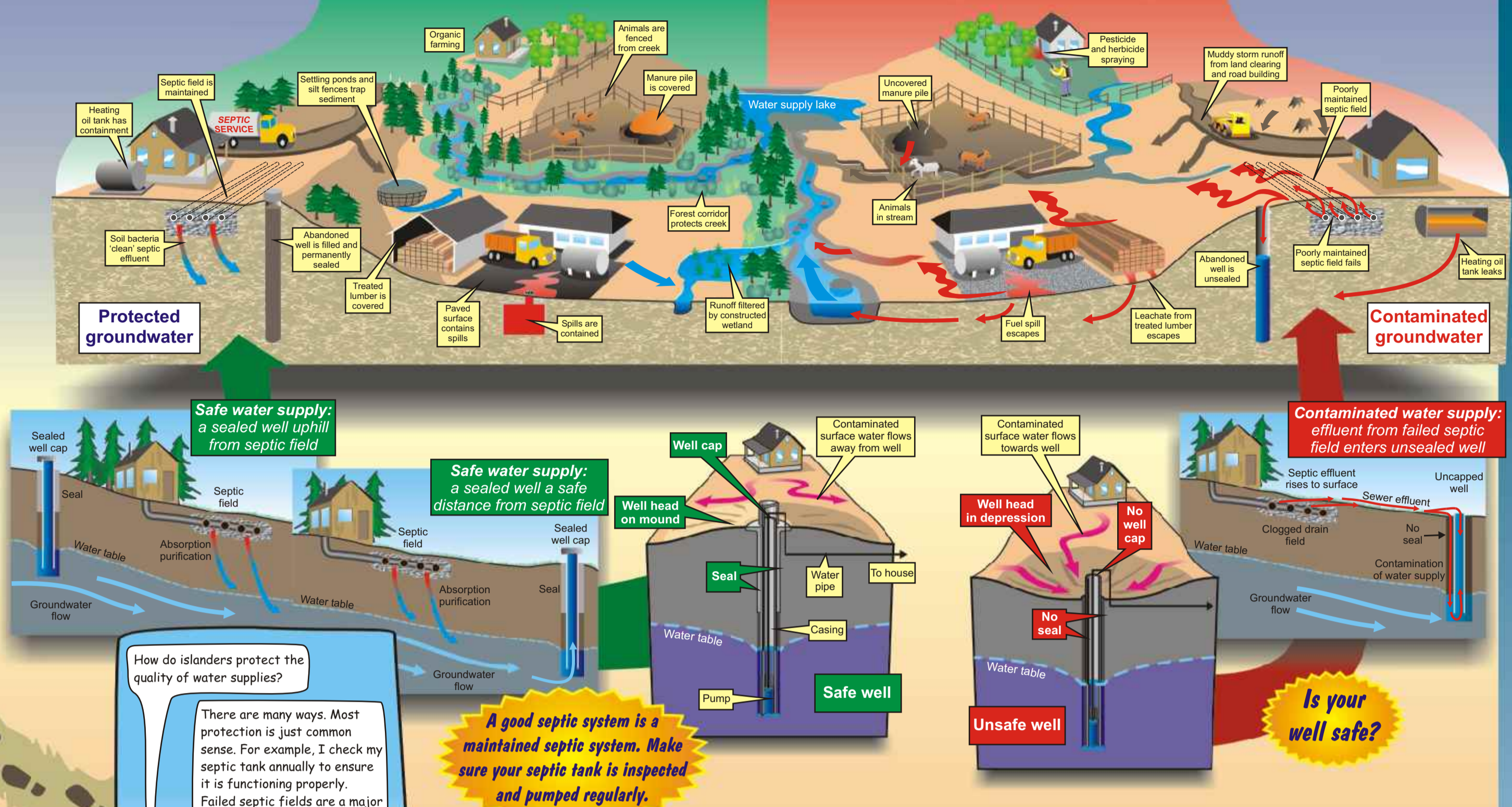


# Waterscape Gulf Islands

## protecting and conserving our island water

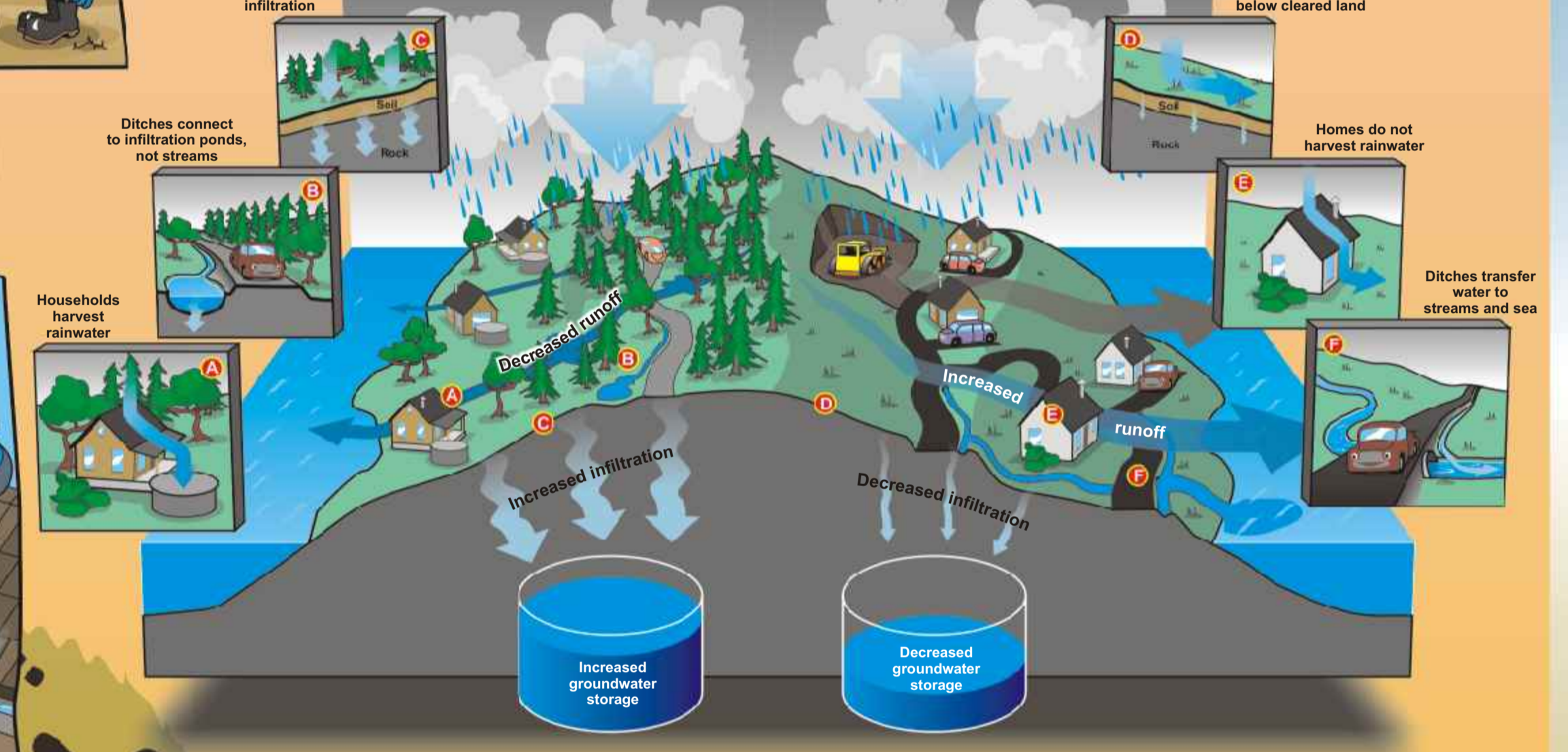
Keeping water clean: it's just common sense

**Doing it right.** Protecting our water  
**Doing it wrong.** Degrading our water

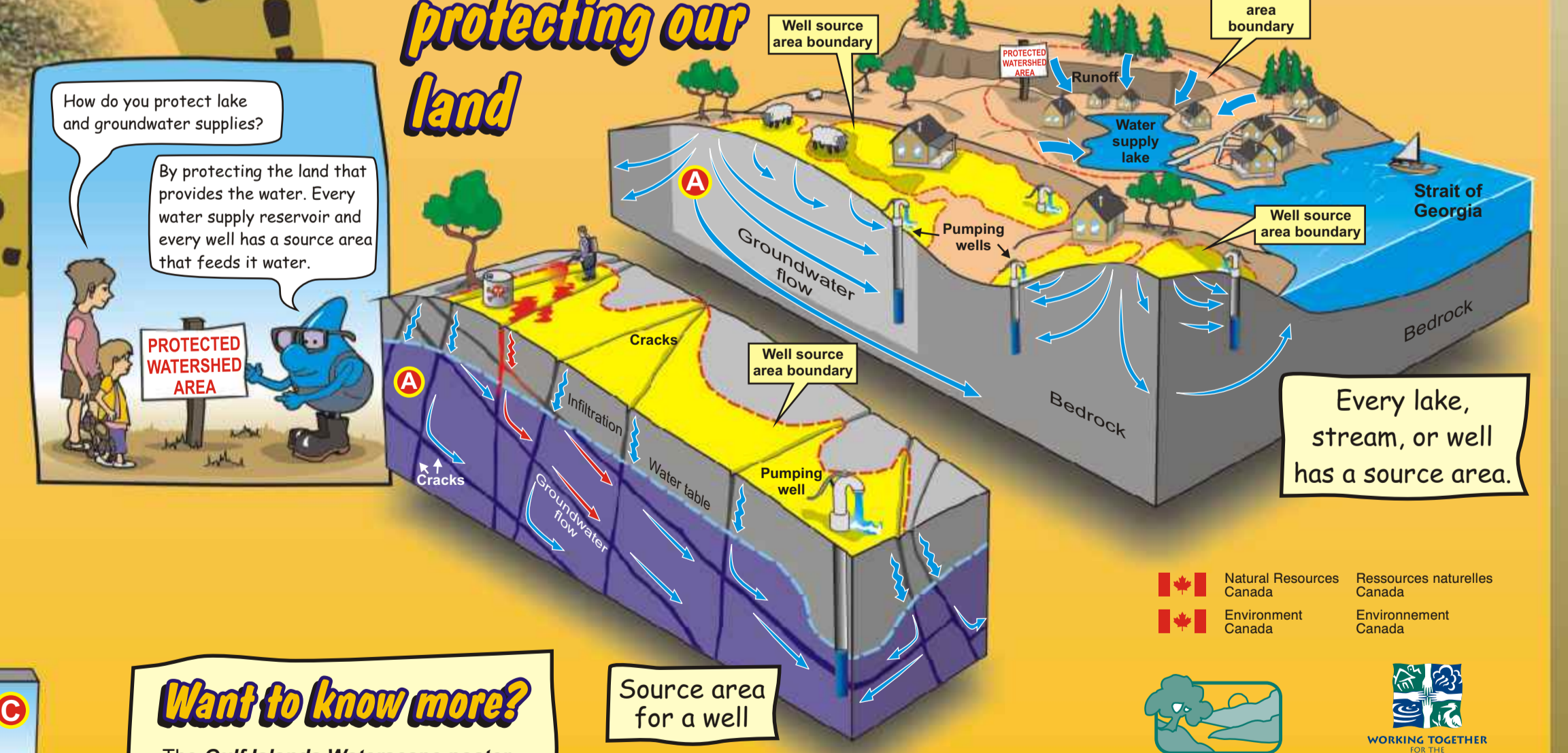


Having enough water: increasing storage

**Doing it right.** Maximum storage of winter rains  
**Doing it wrong.** Wasted opportunities



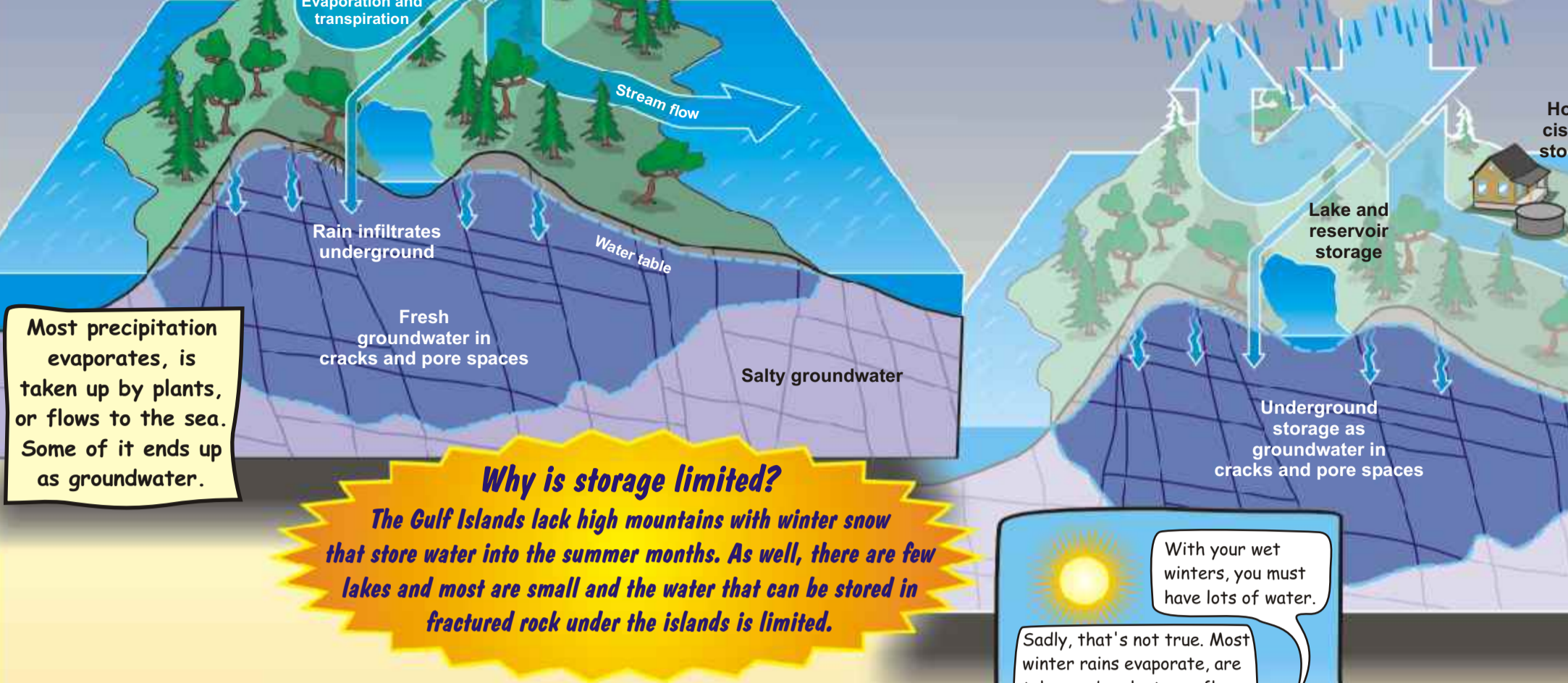
Protecting our water means protecting our land



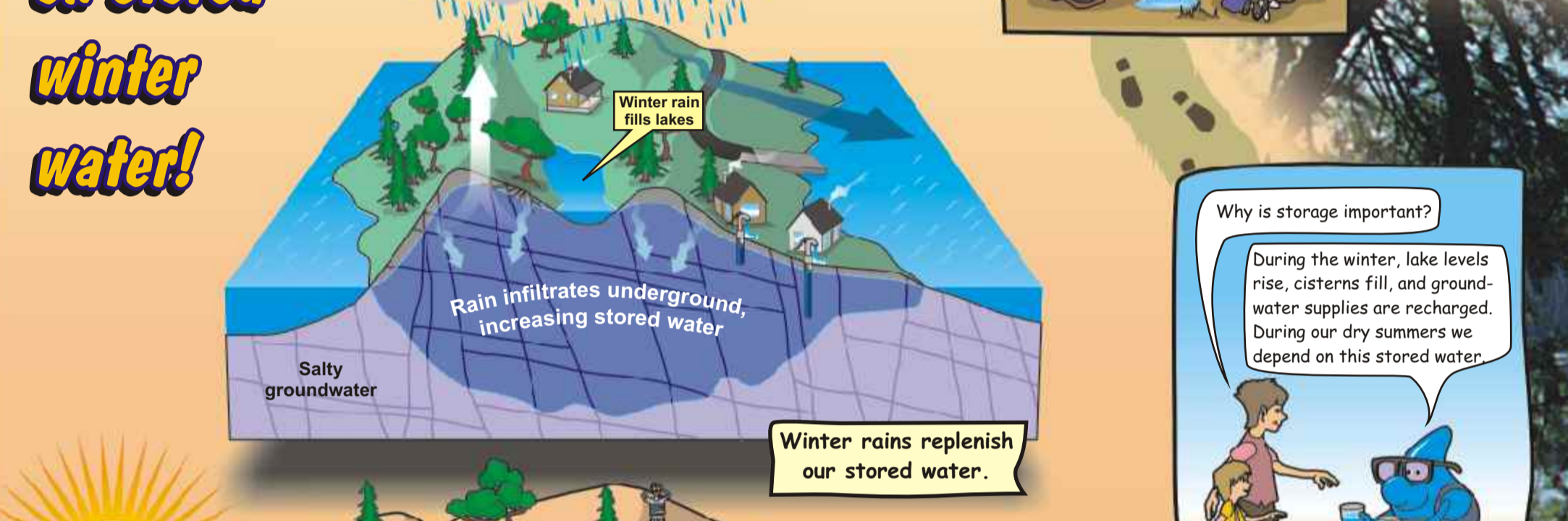
**Want to know more?**  
The Gulf Islands Waterscape poster is on the internet at [www.islandstrust.bc.ca](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca) and [www.geoscape.nrcan.gc.ca](http://www.geoscape.nrcan.gc.ca)  
Government of British Columbia  
Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection  
[www.gov.bc.ca/wat/gwis/gwis.html](http://www.gov.bc.ca/wat/gwis/gwis.html)  
The British Columbia  
Groundwater Association  
[www.bcgwa.org/education.htm](http://www.bcgwa.org/education.htm)



All our water comes from rain ...but little is stored



We depend on stored winter water!



Conservation is crucial



Hi there, I'm Sally. We're here on vacation. Can you tell us about water supplies on the Gulf Islands?  
Sure thing. I'm Raindrop. Let's take a tour.  
Water tour starts here

Sally, that's not true. Most winter rains evaporate, are taken up by plants, or flow in streams to the sea. Only a small amount is stored.  
With your wet winters, you must have lots of water.  
So sorry, that's not true. Most winter rains evaporate, are taken up by plants, or flow in streams to the sea. Only a small amount is stored.

What about climate change?  
Scientists predict that future summers will be warmer and drier. In the future, with more people and less water, we will have to become very good conservers.

How do islanders deal with water shortages?  
Conservation is our best tool. A next step is to harvest rainwater from our roofs and store it in cisterns.

Our changing climate: more droughts coming?



Photograph courtesy of Gordon Gray

Water demand will increase as our population grows, but climate scientists predict that the risk of more prolonged and frequent summer droughts will increase in the future.

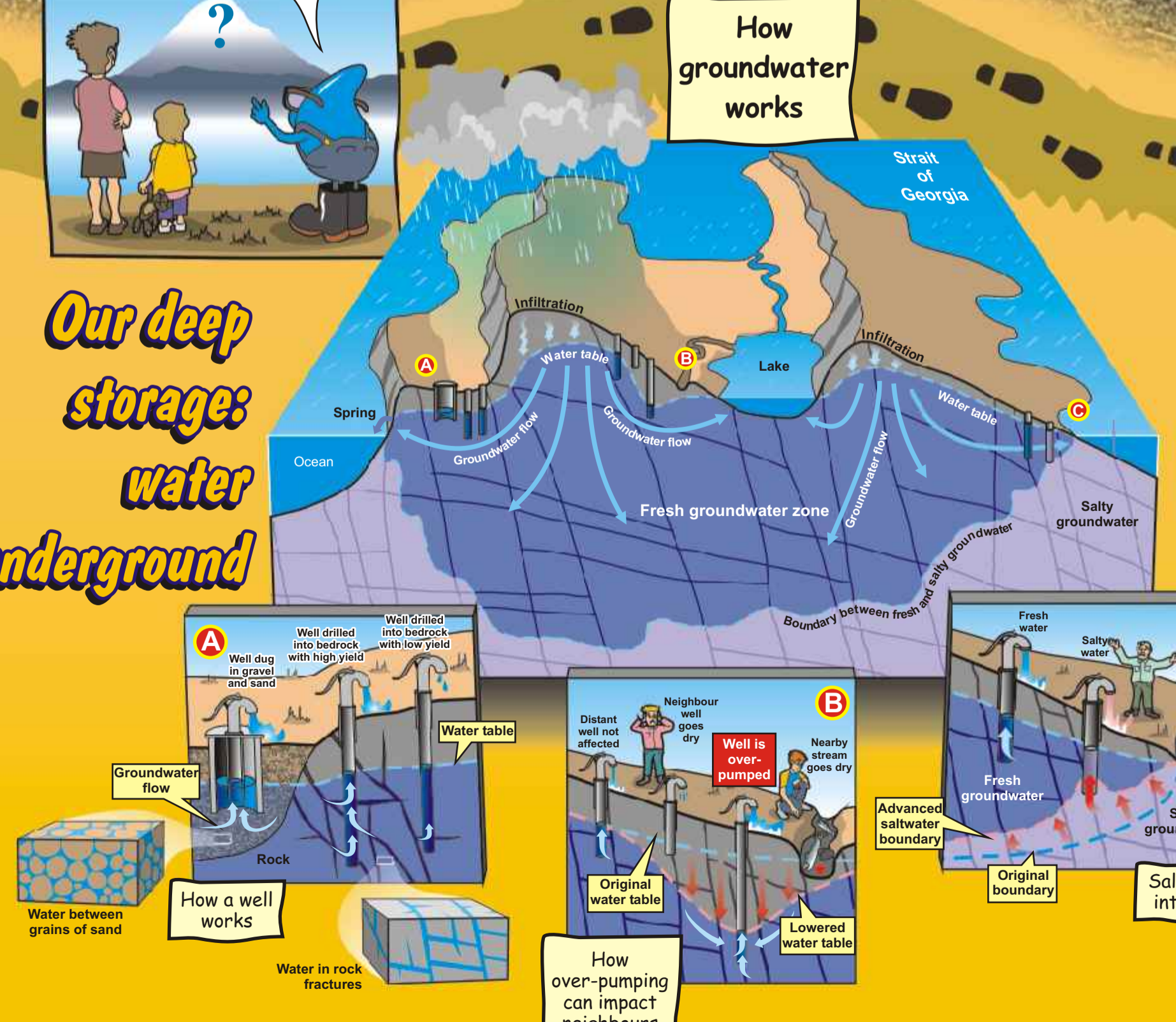
Nature needs water too!



Be careful! Over-pumping of groundwater wells can reduce vital springs that maintain stream flow and wetlands through the summer.

Is it true that the groundwater flows underground from Mount Baker or Vancouver Island?  
That's just a myth. Our groundwater comes from island rainfall that percolates down into the rock.

Our deep storage: water underground



How groundwater works

How over-pumping can impact neighbours' and streams

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Geological Survey of Canada, Miscellaneous Report 69, 2004

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