

Baltimore Floods Key Vocabulary (at first mention)

Term	Definition
Lesson 1	
Flood/flooding	an overflowing of a large amount of water beyond its normal confines, especially over what is normally dry land
Precipitation	rain, snow, sleet or hail that falls to the ground
Runoff	the draining away of water from the surface of an area of land
Watershed	an area or ridge of land that separates waters flowing to different rivers, basins, or seas
Channel Capacity	the amount of water a stream channel can hold before the water spills over onto the floodplain
Lesson 2	
Basin	a natural depression on the Earth's surface
Rain Gauge	a device for collecting and measuring the amount of rain which falls
Accumulation	a mass or quantity of something that has gradually gathered or been acquired
Estimation	a rough calculation of the value, number, quantity or extent of something
Variability	lack of consistency or fixed pattern
Contour	a line joining points on a diagram of the same value
Interpolation	the insertion of a value into a series by estimating or calculating it from surrounding known values
Extrapolation	the extension of a value by inferring unknown values from trends in the known data
Isoline	a line on a map connecting points of equal value, ex: rainfall quantities
Raster	a matrix of cells organized into rows and columns where each cell contains a value representing information
Contour plots	a graphical technique for representing a 3-dimensional surface on a 2-dimensional plane
Dimension	a measurable extent of some kind such as length, breadth, depth, or height
Spatial discretization	splitting a larger domain into smaller discrete points with assigned values
Lesson 3	
Slope	a part of the side of a hill
Boundaries	lines that mark the end or limit of an area
Elevation	height above a given level, especially sea level
Drainage Network	the area of land that drains to a single point in a given watershed
Gravimetric Potential	the work required to move a small amount of water from a source to a destination
Channel Flooding	occurs when the amount of water in a channel exceeds its capacity to hold the water

Term	Definition
Computational Model	a mathematical model that uses elements of computation to study complex systems
Simulation	an imitation of a situation or process; the production of a computer model of something, especially for the purpose of study
Parameterization	a mathematical process consisting of expressing the state of a system; process of modeling as a function of some independent quantities called parameters
Algorithms	a process of a set of rules to be followed in calculations, especially by a computer
Hydrograph	a chart that displays the change in the rate of flow at a specific point in a stream over a give time period
Central Watershed	a watershed situated in the middle of a larger landscape area
Lesson 4	
Topography	the arrangement of the natural and artificial physical features of an area
Aerial Image	a picture of a land surface from above
Infiltration	the process by which water on the ground surface enters the soil
Stream gauge	a set of instruments that measure and record the amount of water, or discharge, flowing in a river or stream at a specific time and past a specific point in the stream channel
Lesson 5	
Water pathways	the path water on the land surface follows as it moves downhill due to gravity
Infiltrometer	a device used to measure the rate of infiltration of water through any given surface type
Permeability	the state or quality of a materials or membrane that causes it to allow liquids or gases to pass through it
Photosynthesis	the process by which plants use sunlight to synthesize food from carbon dioxide and water; the process generates oxygen as a byproduct
Transpiration	the release of water vapor through the stomata of a leaf
Lesson 6	
Runoff Accumulation	the amount of water collected at the low point in a landscape
Hyetograph	a graphical representation of the distribution of rainfall intensity over time
Best Management Practice (BMP)	structural, vegetative or managerial practices used to treat, prevent or reduce stormwater and/or water pollution
Stormwater management facility	a human made structure that controls stormwater by capturing and then releasing the water slowly or filtering the water into the ground
Bioretention facility	an engineered facility that stores and treats stormwater by filtering it through a specified soil profile and plant system
Curb extension	a landscaped area within the parking zone of a street that captures stormwater runoff in a depressed planting bed

Term	Definition
Rain garden	a small bioretention facility designed to capture and treat stormwater runoff
Green roof	a roof partially or completely covered by vegetation and a growing medium
Drainage Area	another term for watershed
Infiltrate	permeate something by filtration