

Hydrologists

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As you can tell by the name, Hydrologists study everything about water. They study its properties, distribution, and movement through the atmosphere. It is an incredibly important field of study considering it deals with one of Earth's most valuable resources: water.

Hydrologists rely upon their understanding of the way water interacts with its environment, also with how it moves from the Earth's surface, to the atmosphere, and then back to Earth. This never-ending movement is referred to as the hydrologic cycle, or the water cycle. Water takes on many forms in the environment in response to changes in temperature and other factors. Water from the surface of oceans, rivers, and other bodies of water evaporate when it gets hot from the sun and turns into water vapor. As the water vapor rises into the atmosphere, it cools and condenses into clouds. Moisture in clouds return to the surface as precipitation. When it reaches the ground, it gets absorbed and turns into groundwater. Water that isn't absorbed will return to creeks, rivers, streams and eventually oceans. This cycle repeats itself.

The field of hydrology is not only studying the natural distribution and movement of water, it also includes studying the human impact on water quality and the problems in water management. People use water for many different reasons. At home, people use water for drinking, bathing, cleaning and cooking. Several industries have a need for water too. Within the field of agriculture, water is used for irrigation of farmland and for livestock. Water in numerous dams are used to produce hydroelectric power.

The list of human uses for water is virtually endless. Since there are so many human uses for water, it's very important for there to be a clean and abundant water supply. Hydrologists work hard to make sure people have access to a clean supply of water. All in all, the field of hydrology is

very important on many levels and without it people wouldn't have access to clean water.