1. **What’s groundwater?** It’s the water found in the cracks and crevices in the sand and rock below the earth’s surface in formations called aquifers.

2. It’s raining, it’s pouring – about **25% of all rainfall** in the U.S. becomes groundwater.¹

3. 2.78 *million trillion* gallons of the world’s freshwater is groundwater. That’s about **30%!**¹

4. It’s a thirsty nation! **The U.S. uses about 349 billion gallons** of water every day, and over one-fourth of that is groundwater.¹

5. It’s not all coming from upstream – **about 30% of U.S. streamflow is from groundwater,** though that amount may be higher or lower in some areas.¹

6. Imagine all the water discharged into the Gulf of Mexico by the Mississippi River in the past 200 years – that’s about **33,000 trillion gallons,** which is about the same amount as the groundwater reserves in the U.S.¹

7. California uses the most groundwater at **10.7 billion gallons a day,** which is one-third more than the second ranked state, Texas at **8.02 billion gallons a day.**¹

8. The U.S. uses **79.6 billion gallons per day** of fresh groundwater for public supply, irrigation, livestock, manufacturing, mining, thermoelectric power, and other purposes.¹

9. **Pump, pump, pump...**more than 15.9 million water wells for all purposes serve the U.S.¹

10. **Take a sip! About half of Americans use groundwater for drinking water,** from both private and public drinking sources.¹

11. Groundwater is helping to **feed the world.** Irrigation is the biggest user of groundwater in the U.S., with about 53 billion gallons used daily.¹

12. In fact, 90% of the groundwater from the Ogallala Aquifer is used for agricultural irrigation, which constitutes **one-third of U.S. irrigated agriculture.**¹

13. If spread across the entire U.S., the groundwater in the Ogallala Aquifer would cover all 50 states with **1.5 feet of water.** Talk about your giant wading pool!¹

14. It would take about **6,000 years to naturally refill the Ogallala Aquifer** if it was ever completely depleted.¹

15. Texas has the most irrigation wells in the U.S. with about **77,400** total.¹

16. The **Ogallala Aquifer** underlies about 175,000 square miles from Texas to South Dakota.²
17. Groundwater and surface water are connected. When you feel a cold spot in a lake, it’s most likely a groundwater spring you’re swimming over. Brrrrrrr!  

18. Groundwater road trip! The distance that groundwater flows per year varies from a few feet to hundreds of miles, depending on the aquifer’s makeup and flow system of groundwater.  

19. Different materials have different capabilities to store groundwater and have water move through them.  

20. Over the hill? Groundwater’s age (or time since recharge) in shallow, local systems can vary from less than a day to a few hundred years. In deep, regional systems with long flow paths (tens of miles), the age of groundwater may reach thousands or tens of thousands of years.  

21. 1, 2, 3…the U.S. is the third largest irrigator in the world, after China and India.  

22. An unconfined aquifer is made of permeable rock and is recharged with water from the land’s surface.  

23. A confined aquifer is found between two layers of less permeable rock and is filled with water.  

24. The groundwater down under…the largest known aquifer is the Great Artesian Basin in Australia, which covers about 660,000 square miles.  

25. Hidden, but massive – at any given moment, the amount of groundwater is 20 to 30 times greater than the amount in all the lakes, streams, and rivers of the U.S.  

26. What makes it taste so good? The most common dissolved minerals in groundwater that give it its unique flavor are calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, chloride, sulfate, and bicarbonate.  

27. The most commonly found pollutants in groundwater are nitrates, metals, volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds, and pesticides.  

28. Let’s keep it clean! Wellhead protection is a pollution prevention and management strategy used to protect groundwater used for drinking water.  

29. Gulp, gulp, gulp – if you live in a rural area, you most likely drink groundwater.  

30. That’s a LOT of groundwater! Out of all the freshwater in the world, minus the polar ice caps, about 95% is groundwater.  

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5. http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/encyclopedia/aquifer/?ar_a=1  