Stormwater Vocabulary

Ms. Jackie introduced a lot of words to describe stormwater in the video. Here they are for you to practice.

"Watershed" is the name of a water drainage area. It is the land area surrounding and draining into a specific body of water (stream, river, pond, lake, bay).

Stormwater runoff is rain that falls to earth and moves.

Natural Water Cycle describes when rainwater soaks down into the ground, becoming groundwater that supplies our wells and fills our streams, rivers and lakes.

Pervious surfaces like wetlands, meadows, grasslands, and forests capture water and soak it up.

Infiltrate means water soaking into the ground.

Impervious surfaces like roads, sidewalks, driveways, parking lots and rooftops prevent rain water from soaking into the ground.

Erosion is when wind, rain and ice cause soil and rock to wear or wash away.

Sediment is tiny particles of soil, rocks, and plants.

Thermal pollution is heat pollution. Cool stormwater warms up when traveling over warm paved surfaces. Warm runoff water is harmful for cold-water species, such as trout, and makes it difficult for aquatic life to survive by decreasing the amount of dissolved oxygen.

BMP's are Best Management Practices, actions we can take to address problems in the environment.

Green infrastructure is a BMP. Examples of green infrastructure include: rain gardens, conservation plantings, swales, permeable pavement, and green roofs. They are installed in the built environment (our towns, cities, and neighborhoods) to mimic the flow of water in the natural water cycle. They are designed to **slow water down, spread it out, and soak it up** before it enters a local waterway.

Please go find examples of these vocabulary words and take pictures of them. And then, if you are able, check out the wonderful green infrastructure projects that are found all around your town. There are quite a few. You'll find one of them on a rooftop! Lastly, it will be hard to take a picture of a watershed unless you are looking at a map, because right now, you are standing (or sitting) in one!