

WATER, *n.* *wa'ter*. [Sax. *water*, was; D. *water*; G. *wasser*; Dan. *vater*; Sw. *vatten*; Goth. *wato*; Russ. *voda*. This may be from the root of *wel*, Gr. *vetos*. In Ar. *wadi* signifies a stream, or the channel where water flows in winter, but which is dry in summer; a thing common on the plains of Syria and Arabia.]

1. A fluid, the most abundant and most necessary for living beings of any in nature, except air. Water when pure, is colorless, destitute of taste and smell, ponderous, transparent, and in a very small degree compressible. It is reposit in the earth in inexhaustible quantities, where it is preserved fresh and cool, and from which it issues in springs, which form streams and rivers. But the great reservoirs of water on the globe are the ocean, seas and lakes, which cover more than three fifths of its surface, and from which it is raised by evaporation, and uniting with the air in the state of vapor, is wafted over the earth, ready to be precipitated in the form of rain, snow or hail.

Water by the abstraction or loss of heat, becomes solid, or in other words, is converted into ice or snow; and by heat it is converted into steam, an elastic vapor, one of the most powerful agents in nature. Modern chemical experiments prove that water is a compound substance, consisting of a combination of oxygen and hydrogen gases, or rather the bases or ponderable matter of those gases; or about two volumes or measures of hydrogen gas and one of oxygen gas. The proportion of the ingredients in weight, is nearly 85 parts of oxygen to 15 of hydrogen. Lavoisier. Fauquelin. Fourcroy.

2. The ocean; a sea; a lake; a river; any great collection of water; as in the phrases, to go by *water*, to travel by *water*.
3. Urine; the animal liquor secreted by the kidneys and discharged from the bladder.
4. The color or luster of a diamond or pearl, sometimes perhaps of other precious stones; as a diamond of the first *water*, that is, perfectly pure and transparent. Hence the figurative phrase, a man or a genius of the *first water*, that is, of the first excellence.

5. *Water* is a name given to several liquid substances or humors in animal bodies; as the *water* of the pericardium, of dropsy, &c. Cyc.

Mineral waters, are those waters which are so impregnated with foreign ingredients, such as gaseous, sulphureous and saline substances, as to give them medicinal, or at least sensible properties. Most natural waters contain more or less of these foreign substances, but the proportion is generally too minute to affect the senses.

D. Olmsted.

To hold *water*, to be sound or tight. [Obsolete or vulgar.] L'Estrange.

WATER-BEARER, *n.* [*water* and *bearer*.] In *astronomy*, a sign of the zodiac, called also *Aquarius*, from L. *aqua*, water.

WATER-BELLOWS, *n.* [*water* and *bel-lows*.]

A machine for blowing air into a furnace, by means of a column of water falling through a vertical tube. Cyc.

WATER-BORNE, *n.* Borne by the water; floated; having water sufficient to float; as ships *water-borne* by the flowing tide. Smollett.

WATER-CALAMINT, *n.* [*water* and *calamint*.] A species of mint or *Mentha*. Cyc.

WATER-CARRIAGE, *n.* [*water* and *carriage*.]

1. Transportation or conveyance by water; or the means of transporting by water.
2. A vessel or boat. [Not in use.] Arbuthnot.

WATER-CART, *n.* [*water* and *cart*.] A cart bearing a large cask of water which is conveyed into a cylinder full of holes, by means of which the water is sprinkled upon the ground.

WATER-CLOCK, *n.* [*water* and *clock*.] The clepsydra; an instrument or machine serving to measure time by the fall of a certain quantity of water. Encyc.

WATER-COLOR, *n.* [*water* and *color*.] Water-colors, in painting or limning, are colors diluted and mixed with gum-water. Water-colors are so called in distinction from oil-colors. Encyc.

WATER-COURSE, *n.* [*water* and *course*.] 1. A stream of water; a river or brook. Is. xlv.

2. A channel or canal for the conveyance of water, particularly in draining lands.

WATER-CRESS, *n.* [*water* and *cress*.] A small creeping plant or weed growing in watery places. Cyc.

A plant, a species of *Sisymbrium*. Lee.

WATER-CROWFOOT, *n.* [*water* and *crow-foot*.]

A plant on which cows are said to be fond of feeding. Cyc.

WATER-DROP, *n.* [*water* and *drop*.] A drop of water. Shak.

WATER-DROPWÖRT, *n.* A plant of the genus *Enanthe*. Lee.

WATER-EL/EPHANT, *n.* A name given to the hippopotamus.

WATER-ENGINE, *n.* [*water* and *engine*.] An engine to raise water; or an engine moved by water.

WATERFALL, *n.* [*water* and *fall*.] A fall or perpendicular descent of the water of a river or stream, or a descent nearly perpendicular; a cascade; a cataract. But the word is generally used of the fall of a small river or rivulet. It is particularly used to express a cascade in a garden, or an artificial descent of water, designed as an ornament. Cyc.

WATER-FLAG, *n.* [*water* and *flag*.] Water flower de luce, a species of *Tris*.

WATER-FLOOD, *n.* [*water* and *flood*.] A flood of water; an inundation.

WATER-FLY, *n.* [*water* and *fly*.] An insect that is seen on the water.

WATER-FOWL, *n.* [*water* and *fowl*.] A fowl that frequents the water, or lives about rivers, lakes, or on or near the sea; an aquatic fowl. Of aquatic fowls, some are waders, or furnished with long legs; others are swimmers, and are furnished with webbed feet.

WATER-FOX, *n.* [*water* and *fox*.] A name given to the carp, an account of its cunning. Walton.

WATER-FURROW, *n.* [*water* and *furrow*.] In *agriculture*, a deep furrow made for conducting water from the ground and keeping it dry.

WATER-FURROW, *v. t.* To plow or open water furrows.

WATER-GAGE, } [*water* and *gage*.]

WATER-GUAGE, } *n.* An instrument for measuring or ascertaining the depth or quantity of water.

WATER-GALL, *n.* A cavity made in the earth by a torrent of water.

2. An appearance in the rainbow. Steevens.

WATER-GERMANDER, *n.* A plant of the genus *Teucrium*. Cyc.

WATER-GOD, *n.* [*water* and *god*.] A deity that presides over the water.

WATER-GRUEL, *n.* [*water* and *gruel*.] A liquid food, composed of water and a small portion of meal or other farinaceous substance boiled.

WATER-HAMMER, *n.* A column of water in a vacuum, which not being supported as in the air, falls against the end of the vessel with a peculiar noise. It may be formed by corking a vessel of water while it is boiling. The vapor condensing as it cools, a vacuum is formed.

WATER-HAIR-GRASS, *n.* A species of grass, the *Aira aquatica*. Cyc.

WATER-HEMP-AGRIMONY, *n.* A plant of the genus *Bidens*. Lee.

WATER-HEN, *n.* [*water* and *hen*.] A water fowl of the genus *Fulica*, the gallinula or mourben; also, a species of *Rallus*, the sorex, inhabiting Virginia and Carolina. Cyc.

WATER-HOG, *n.* [*water* and *hog*.] A quadruped of S. America, the *Cavia capybara*. Linné.

WATER-LAUREL, *n.* [*water* and *laurel*.] A plant.

WATER-LEAF, *n.* [*water* and *leaf*.] A plant of the genus *Hydrophyllum*. Lee.

WATERLESS, *a.* Destitute of water. Tooke.

WATER-LEVEL, *n.* [*water* and *level*.] The level formed by the surface of still water.

WATER-LILY, *n.* [*water* and *lily*.] A plant of the genus *Nymphaea*. Lee.

WATER-LINE, *n.* [*water* and *line*.] A horizontal line supposed to be drawn about a ship's bottom, at the surface of the water. This is higher or lower, according to the depth of water necessary to float her. Mar. Dict. Cyc.

WATER-LOGGED, *a.* [*water* and *log*.] Lying like a log on the water. A ship is said to be *water-logged*, when by leaking and receiving a great quantity of water into her hold, she has become so heavy as not to be manageable by the helm, and to be at the mercy of the waves. Cyc.

WATERMAN, *n.* [*water* and *man*.] A boatman; a ferryman; a man who manages water-craft. Gay.

WATER-MARK, *n.* [*water* and *mark*.] The mark or limit of the rise of a flood. Dryden.

WATER-MEL/ON, *n.* [*water* and *melon*.] A plant and its fruit, of the genus *Cucurbita*, (*C. citrullus*). This plant requires a