Groundwater https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-ogallala-aquifer/ https://ne.water.usgs.gov/ogw/hpwlms/hydsett.html This set of two articles spans the social and geologic aspects of the High Plains aquifer (primarily the Ogallala aquifer that we covered in class). The Scientific American article discusses the issues with the overuse of the aquifer and how groups are attempting to address it. The other (incredibly short) link is to the USGS’s (U.S. Geological Survey) page on the geology and hydrology of the aquifer. Make sure you check out the linked figures too.

1) What are the High Plains aquifers made of? Generally, where and when did this material originate?

2) Tougher question: based on Figure 6 from the USGS, what kind of environment(s) would guess the aquifer’s Quaternary (Pleistocene and Holocene, or 2.5 million years ago through the present) sediments were deposited in? Look up loess in your book for help.

3) What is the source of the water in the aquifer? How is it recharged? Why is it considered geologic/fossil water?

4) What is the depth of the aquifer, and how quickly does water travel through it?

5) How has usage of the aquifer changed over time, and how is it responding?

6) How are people adapting to the decline and potential demise of the aquifer? (This is a big question.)

7) If climate changes as expected, how will this impact the aquifer?

8) Who do you think “owns” the water? Who should own it? (This is opi