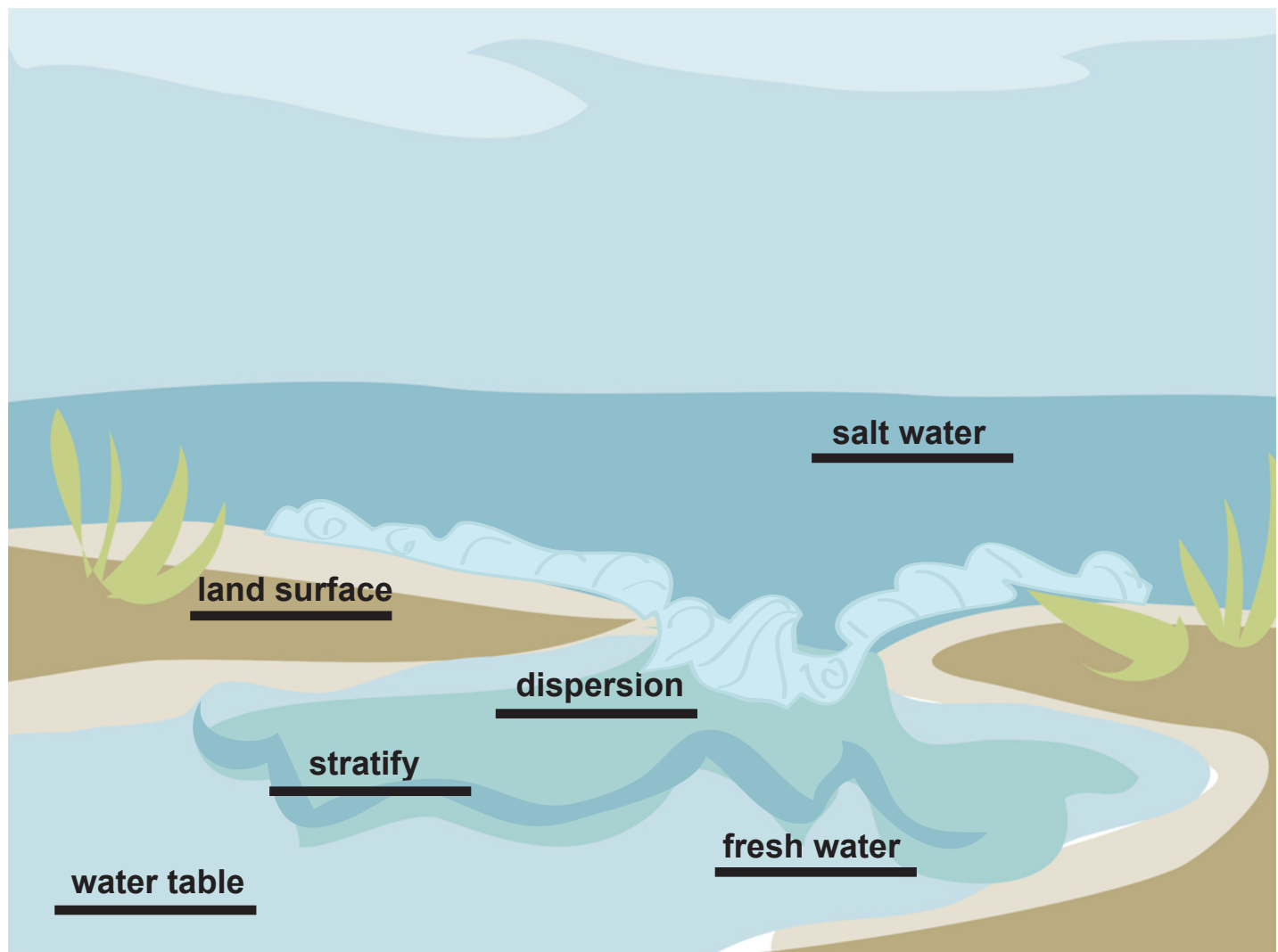


# Water Cycle: From Fresh to Salt Water

Follow the path of the water. Read the paragraph and fill in the blanks in the image.

Just under the land surface is where the water table of a river meets with the sea. As freshwater from rivers collides with the ocean, the water tries to mix. However, the ocean is made up of saltwater -- which is much denser than fresh water -- so instead of mixing, it will stratify, creating layers. The buoyant fresh water floats to the top while the denser saltwater sinks to the bottom. However, a small portion of fresh water and salt water will mix. This water is called dispersion. Tidal waves are often responsible for mixing waters due to the massive turbulence they cause. Even wind can encourage mixing.



Where can you find fresh water and salt water collide? Visit your nearest beach and try to identify the water table, dispersion, and more!