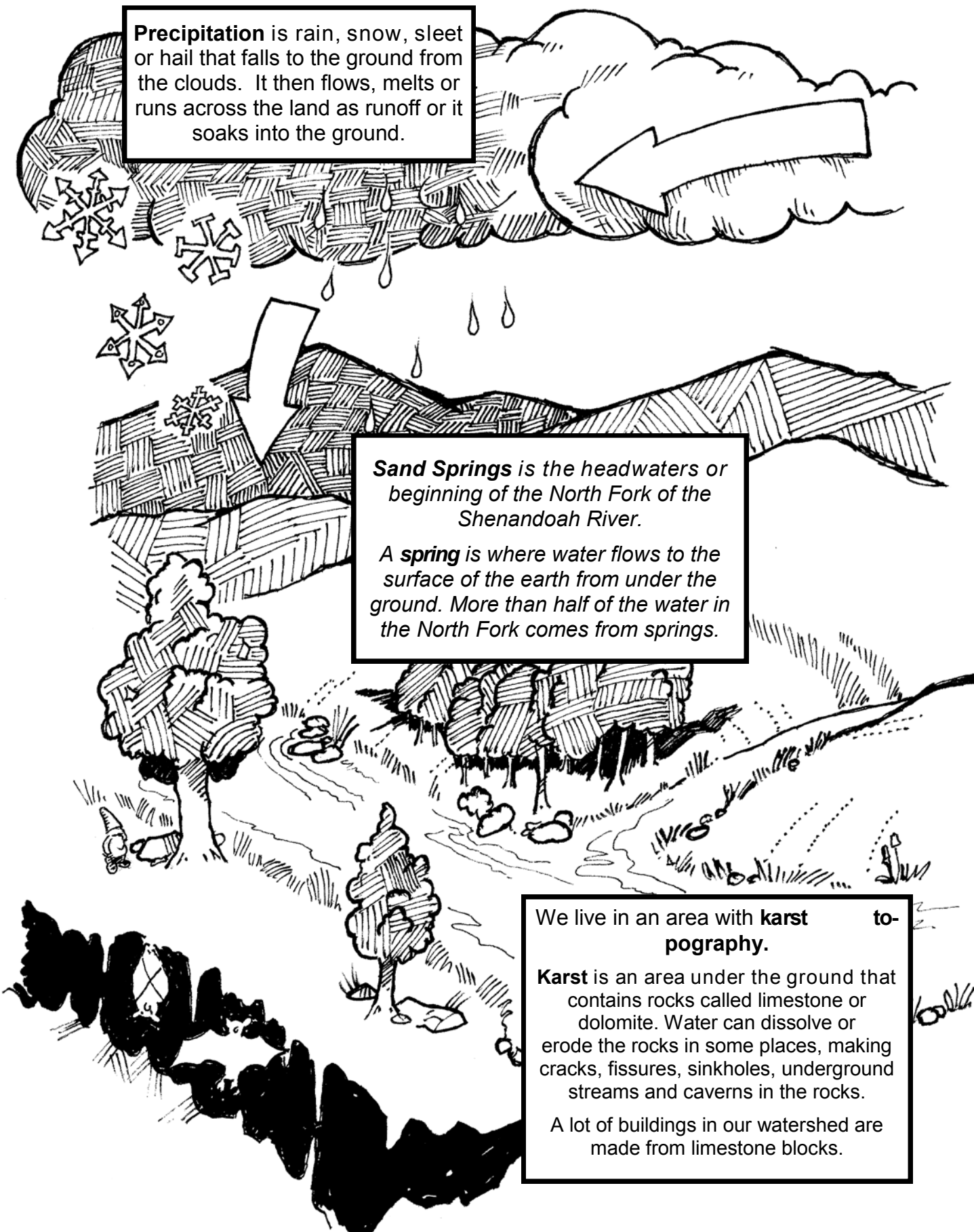


Where does river water come from?



Precipitation is rain, snow, sleet or hail that falls to the ground from the clouds. It then flows, melts or runs across the land as runoff or it soaks into the ground.

Sand Springs is the headwaters or beginning of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River.

A **spring** is where water flows to the surface of the earth from under the ground. More than half of the water in the North Fork comes from springs.

We live in an area with **karst topography**.

Karst is an area under the ground that contains rocks called limestone or dolomite. Water can dissolve or erode the rocks in some places, making cracks, fissures, sinkholes, underground streams and caverns in the rocks.

A lot of buildings in our watershed are made from limestone blocks.

Clouds form from the **condensation** of water vapor in the air that has evaporated from the surrounding land and water.

Condensation is when water is converted from its vapor phase into liquid phase - when it changes from a gas to a

Transpiration is the loss, or passage, of water into the air or atmosphere from plants (similar to sweating). 10% of the moisture or water in the air is released from plants through transpiration.

See what that looks like by putting a live plant in a sealed clear plastic bag.

Oh boy!
I think I'm
in the Wa-

Evaporation is when water changes from a liquid to a gas or vapor. It is how water moves from the ground into the sky.

90% of the moisture or water in the air comes from evaporating oceans, rivers and other bodies of water.

Here's an experiment you can do for **evaporation** and **condensation**. Fill a jar half full of soil and water. Cover with a plastic bag held in place with a rubber band. Make observations of how the water evaporates and condenses inside of the plastic bag.