



**Figure 5.3.** Ground water and aquifer terminology.

Subsurface openings range in size from subcapillary to supercapillary. In some aquifers—for example, in a well-sorted medium-grained sand—all openings are of capillary size. In such aquifers all openings are filled with water for a short distance above the water table as a result of capillary forces. Some hydrologists favor extending the definition of the zone of saturation to include that part of the capillary fringe in which all openings are filled with water. According to these hydrologists, the water table is that level in the zone of saturation at which the water is under atmospheric pressure.

SOURCE: Hoath, R.C. and F.W. Trainer  
 Introduction to Ground Water Hydrology  
 Water Well Publishing, Co., 1981