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step drawdown test. A type of *aquifer test* in which the water level in a pumped well is measured while the well is pumped at a constant rate for a given period of time; the pumping rate is successively increased for each of several time intervals, the water level is measured during each interval, and drawdown is calculated for each pumping rate. The derived relationship between drawdown and pumping rate can be used to estimate aquifer properties, the practical yield of the pumping well, and the appropriate depth setting of the pump in a production well.

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GeoWord of the Day