

How People Found Water In The Past

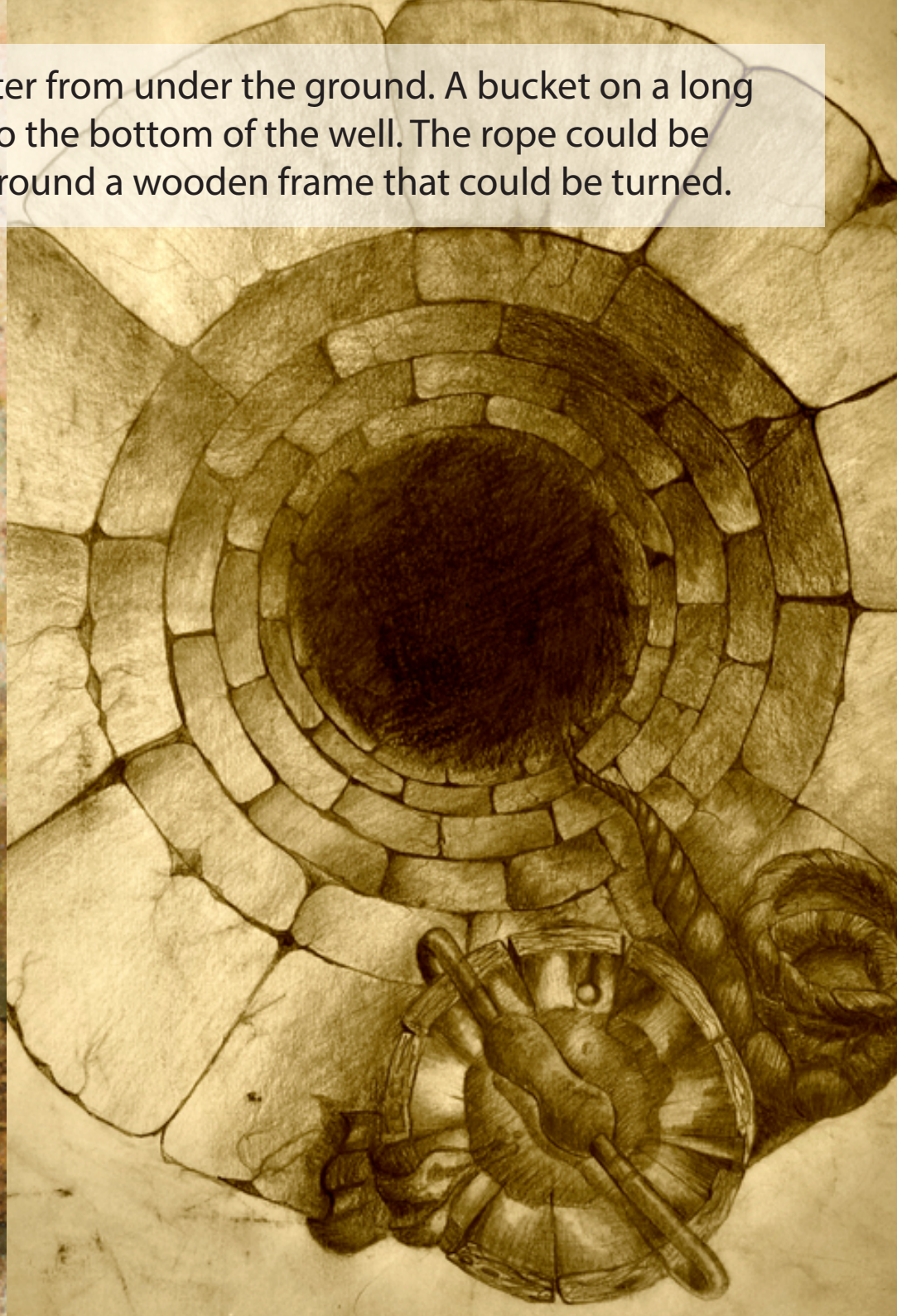
Study*ladder*





Most of us have grown up with clean water, readily available from the taps in our houses. How did people access water before indoor plumbing was invented? Study [ladder](#)

People dug wells to access water from under the ground. A bucket on a long rope could be lowered down to the bottom of the well. The rope could be pulled up by hand or wound around a wooden frame that could be turned.





In some parts of the world people still rely on wells to get fresh water. These people are drawing water from a well in Rajasthan, India.



Towns and villages were often built around a natural water source like a river or a spring. These natural sources provided people with drinking water and water for cooking and washing. People just needed to go to the source and fill up a container. Carrying it back home was heavy work.



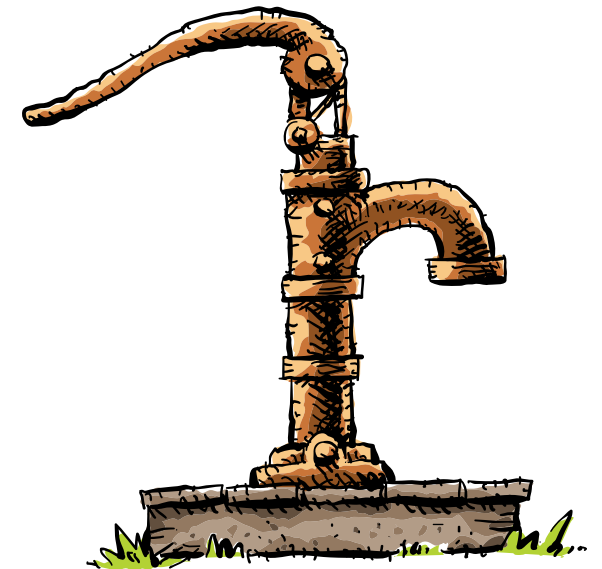
In some parts of the world people still collect water every day from streams, rivers and waterholes. The muddy water is fit for drinking but sometimes it is polluted and makes them sick. Study [ladder](#)



These places became a central meeting place in the community.

Villagers and townsfolk would walk to the well or spring and fill up containers to take back to their houses.

Eventually pumps were invented to bring water to the surface from underground water sources.





These children in Thailand use a pump to access groundwater.

Collecting water is still hard work for many people in the world.

These Maasi tribe members in Kenya may walk for many kilometers to collect water for their families. And in times of drought water can be very hard to find.

Imagine if you had to walk that far to find water!

