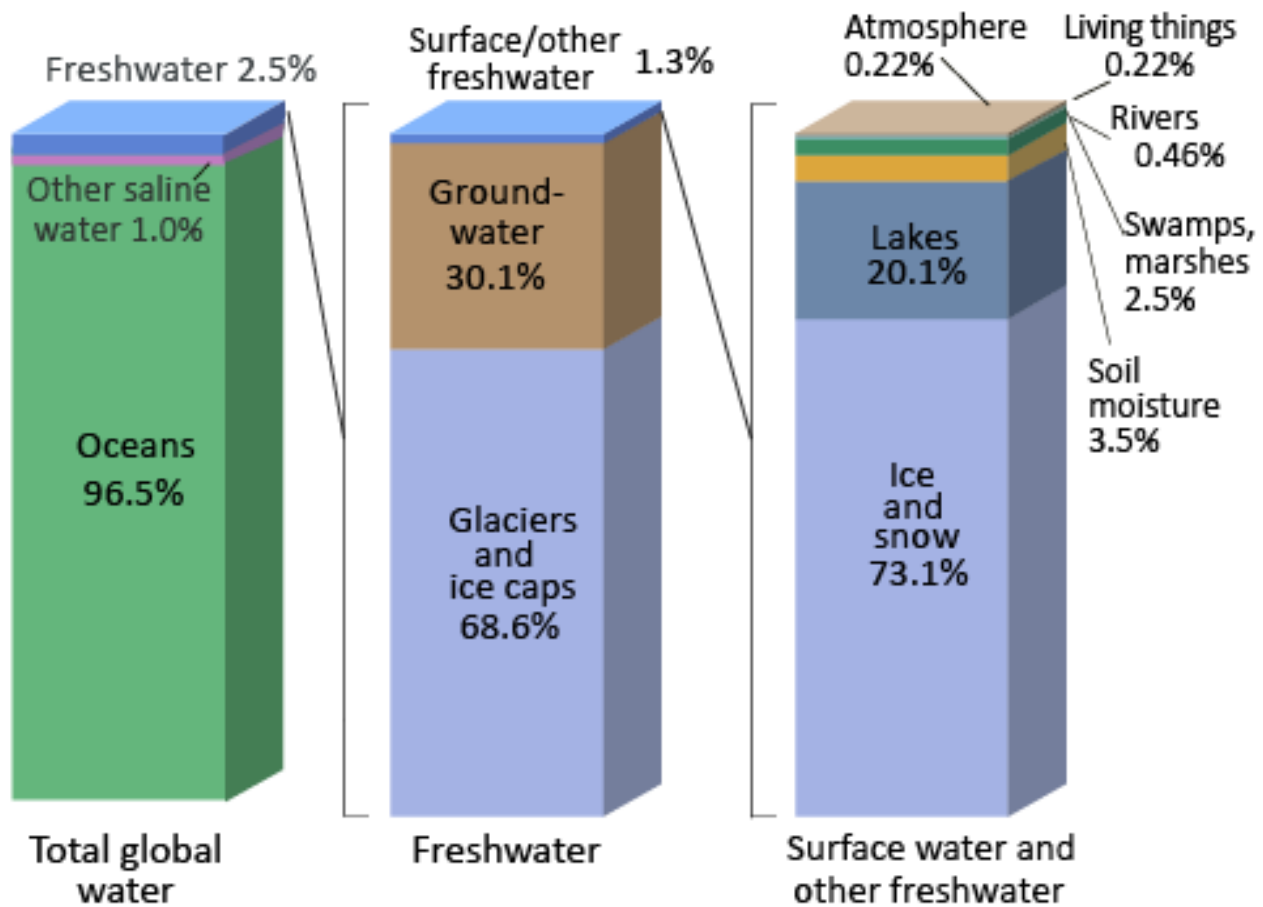


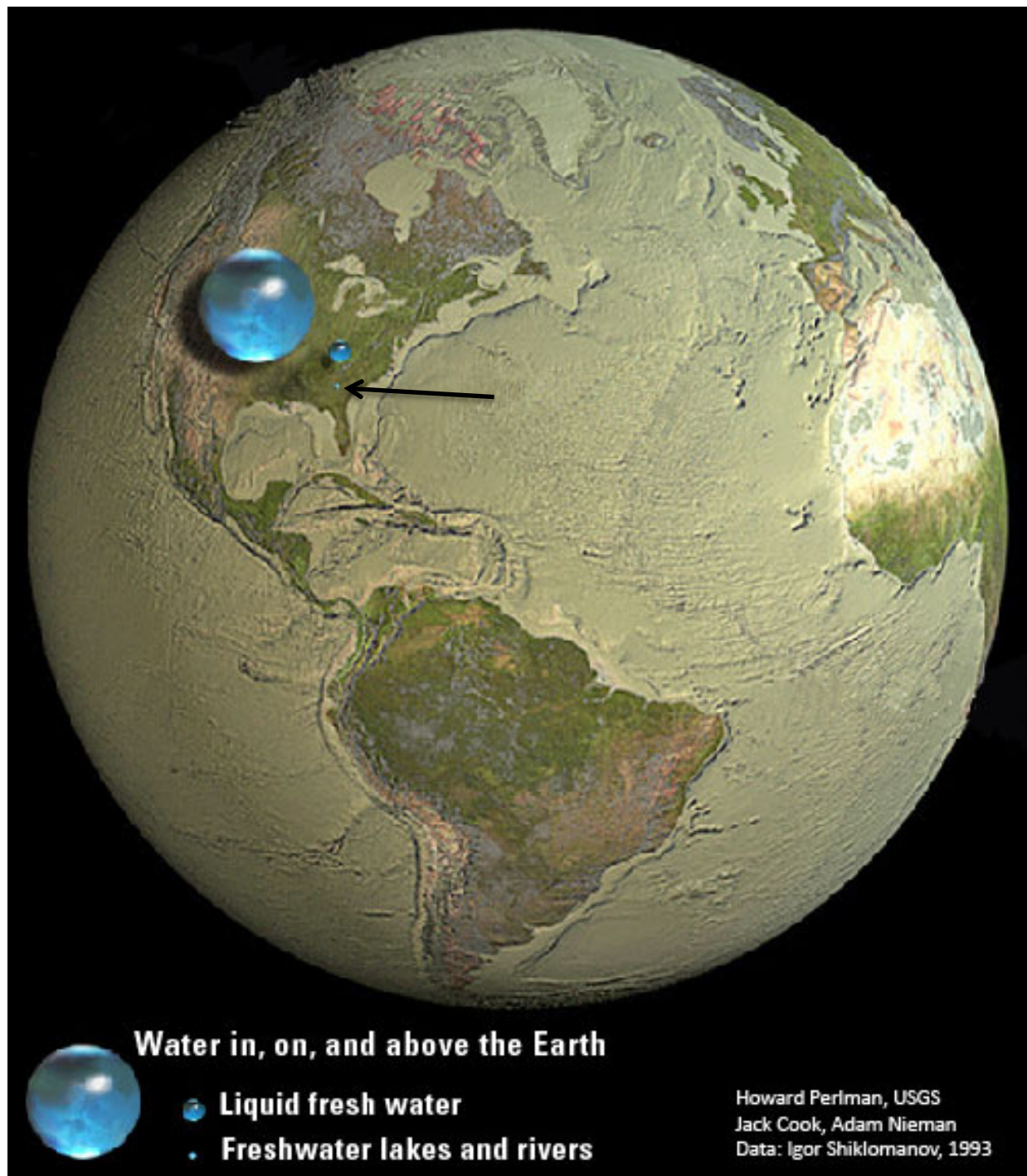
Where is Earth's Water?



Source: Igor Shiklomanov's chapter "World fresh water resources" in Peter H. Gleick (editor), 1993, *Water in Crisis: A Guide to the World's Fresh Water Resources*. (Numbers are rounded).

- BAR#1 Only 2.5% of all Earth's water is freshwater.
- BAR#2 Of the 2.5% of all freshwater only the 1.3% is surface freshwater. Glaciers & icecaps are considered inaccessible.
- BAR# 3 Of the accessible surface freshwater
 - 73% is locked up in ice and snow
 - 20% is in lakes.
 - 0.46% is in rivers where humans get a large portion of their water.

In fact, look at the globe below. There is a tiny 3rd bubble hovering over Georgia, USA. That is the size of a ball of water with all the freshwater in lakes and rivers, yet the water in that bubble has the huge responsibility of serving most of humans' and animals' water needs.



All Earth's water, liquid fresh water, and water in lakes and rivers

Spheres showing:

- (1) All water (sphere over western U.S., 860 miles in diameter)
- (2) Fresh liquid water in the ground, lakes, swamps, and rivers (sphere over Kentucky, 169.5 miles in diameter), and
- (3) Fresh-water lakes and rivers (sphere over Georgia, 34.9 miles in diameter).

Credit: [Howard Perlman](#), USGS; globe illustration by [Jack Cook](#), Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (©); [Adam Nieman](#).