Sorption: adsorption and absorption

**Adsorption:**
Individual entities are attached onto the surface of an impermeable solid.

**Absorption:**
A collectivity is taken into a volume of a permeable material.

In the drying of dishes, a film of water adsorbed on a plate is absorbed into a towel.

Absorption at the macroscopic scale commonly involves adsorption at the nanoscopic scale.
For example, a molecule of H$_2$O$^+$ adsorbed on the surface of single crystal/grain is part of the water absorbed in a mass of those crystals/grains.

* the H$_2$O is no longer "water" in "water"'s sense of a readily flowing liquid)