

Soil Layers

Soil is made up of distinct horizontal layers. If you could take an elevator ride through the earth's surface you would pass several distinct layers.

What are the layers of soil?

The **humus** is the topmost layer of soil. It contains quite a bit of living material, plants, decaying leaves, needles, moss, and more. This layer is thin and very dark in color.

The **topsoil** is the next layer down. It is made mostly of minerals, and most plant roots live here. This layer is also dark in color due to the amount of decaying plant and animal matter.

The **subsoil layer** is next. It is made of sand, silt and clay that have not been broken down all the way, so it usually has less organic material in it. It is also lighter in color.

The **parent material** is the next layer down. It is mostly rock that has been slightly weathered. Not many things live down here, except for the biggest tree roots.

The **bedrock** is the lowest layer of soil. It is a solid rock layer.



1) Find the meaning in the translator:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| a) TOPMOST | 1 _____ |
| b) LAYER | 2 _____ |
| c) LIVING MATERIAL | 3 _____ |
| d) LEAVES | 4 _____ |
| e) MOSS | 5 _____ |
| f) DARK | 6 _____ |
| g) TOPSOIL | 7 _____ |
| h) DECAYING | 8 _____ |
| i) ANIMAL MATTER | 9 _____ |
| j) SUBSOIL | 10 _____ |
| k) SAND | 11 _____ |
| l) CLAY | 12 _____ |
| m) LIGHTER | 13 _____ |
| n) ROCK | 14 _____ |
| m) WEATHERED | 15 _____ |
| o) BEDROCK | 16 _____ |

2) Write YES/NO

- a) Soil has got different layers _____
- b) Humus is the second layer of soil _____
- c) It contains living material, rest of plants, moss, etc. _____
- d) The TOPSOIL contains minerals _____
- e) The TOPSOIL is light in colour _____
- f) The SUBSOIL layer contains organic material _____
- g) The PARENTAL MATERIAL is made of silt, sand and clay _____
- h) The BEDROCK is solid rock _____

3) Which of these sentences is in passive voice

- a) Soil is made up of different horizontal layers _____
- b) Humus contains living material _____
- c) The topsoil is made of minerals _____

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Label and color the layers

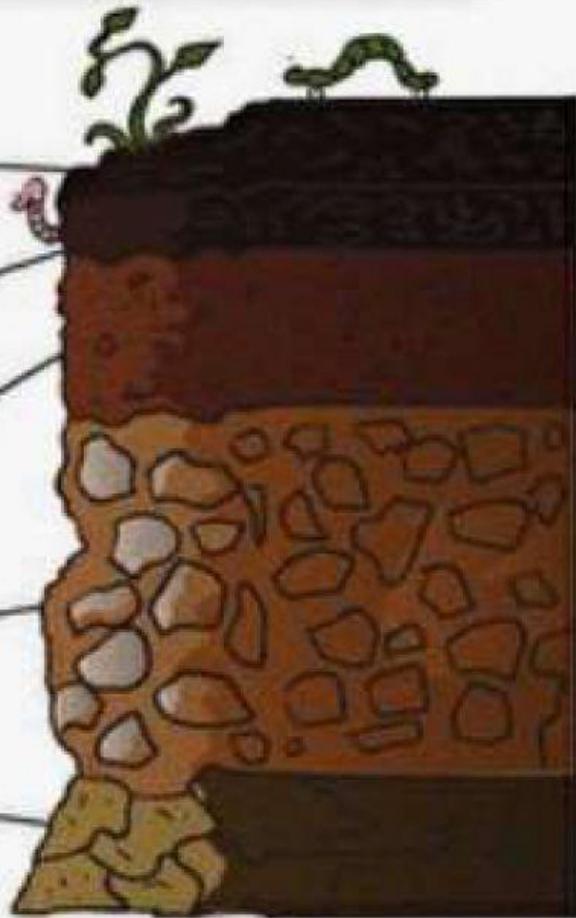
1

2

3

4

5



Word Bank

Humus

Parent Material

Topsoil

Bedrock

Subsoil