

Soil profile



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The physical, chemical, and biological activities that happened during soil formation formed different layers (horizons) of soil. One below the other.

Four distinct soil layers can be seen. These layers are called **horizons**.

A vertical section of soil from the ground surface to the parent rock that shows the different horizons is called **soil profile**.

1) Write TRUE/ FALSE

a) The soil layers (horizons) were formed as the years passed. ____

b) If we make a hole in the land, we can't see soil horizons. ____

c) The layers are called using CAPITAL LETTERS (A, B, C) ____

d) Each horizon has got different characteristics. ____

e) The sum of the different horizons is called SOIL PROFILE ____

What are the layers of soil?

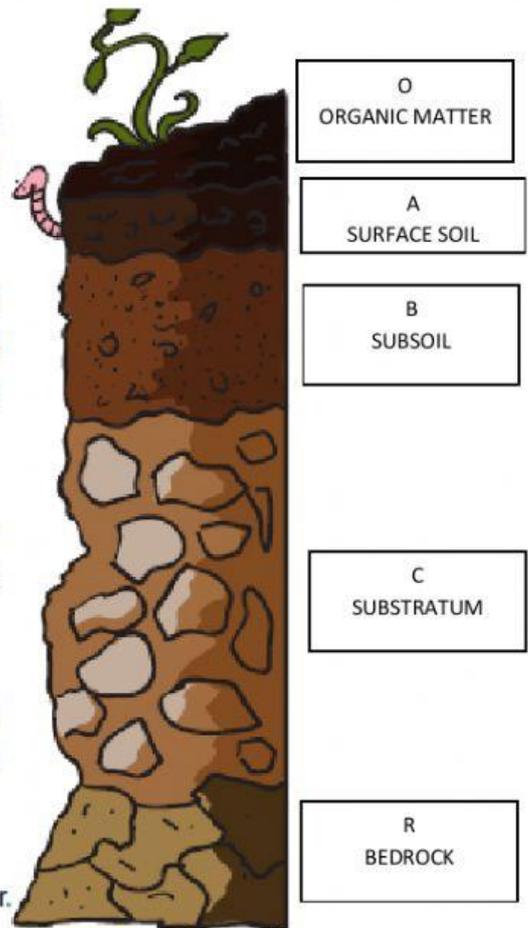
The **humus** is the topmost layer of soil. It contains quite a bit of living material, plants, decaying leaves, needles, moss, and more. This layer is thin and very dark in color.

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.



COMPLETE THE CHART USING THE WORDS BELOW. COMPLETA EL CUADRO UTILIZANDO LAS PALABRAS QUE ESTAN DEBAJO DE ACUERDO A LOS COMPONENTES DE CADA HORIZONTE

	Humus organic matter O	Topsoil Surface soil A	Subsoil layer B	Parental material Substratum C	Bedrock R
COMPONENTS	Living material				

MINERALS DECAYING PLANTS ANIMAL MATTER SAND SILT CLAY SOLID ROCK

ROCKS BIG TREES ROOTS TREES MOSS DECAYING LEAVES