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 tranlator:

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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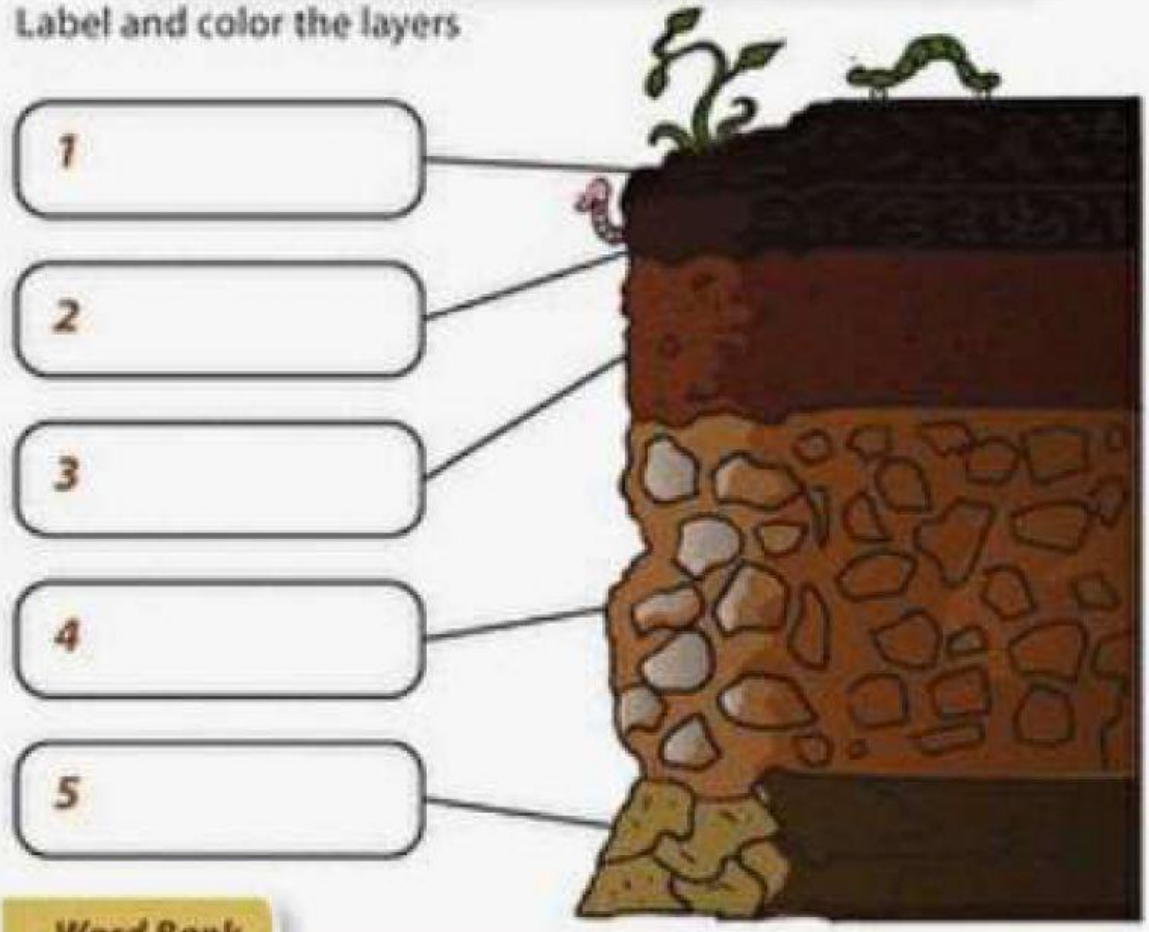
Label and color the layers



Word Bank

Humus Parent Material Topsoil

Bedrock Subsoil