

## What are soil?

# Composition of Earth's Soil

Living thing - Clay - Silt - Water - Air - Sand - Minerals - Organic Matter



Coarse, gritty particles;  
drains water quickly



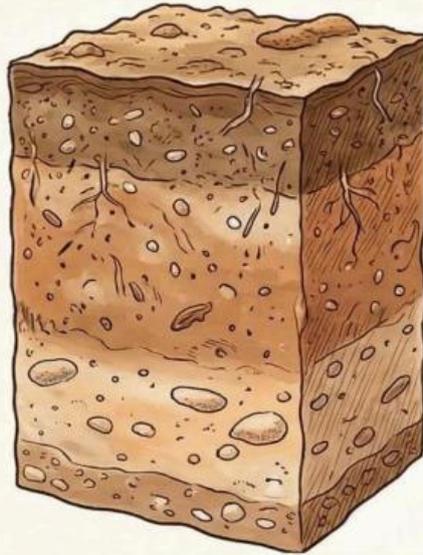
Fine, smooth particles;  
holds moderate moisture



Fills spaces between  
particles; essential for life



Dead plants and animals;  
adds nutrients



Tiny, dense particles;  
holds water very well



Solid, nonliving substances  
found in nature



Pockets of gas between  
particles; roots need



Bacteria, fungi, worms;  
decompose matter