

Activity Time: "Questionnaire"

Soil Formation / Page 12

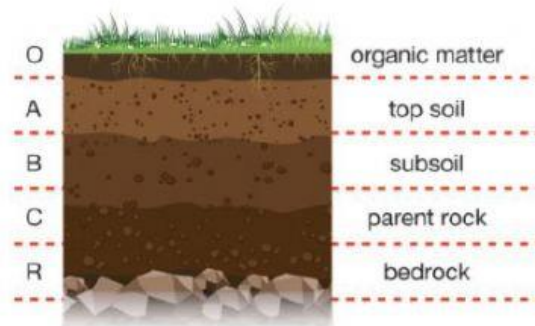
Soil is part of the Earth's crust. Soil is formed primarily by **weathering** but can take many thousands years for rock to break down into soil. There are other factors that contribute to the formation of soil such as the **living things** in the area, the **climate**, and the **topography**. Organic matter **disintegrates** and mixes with rock fragments, minerals, and water to form soil. The interactions between all of these factors produce different types of soil all over the world.

Soil is divided in horizons. Each has its own characteristics:

- The **O horizon** (organic matter) is mostly made of dead leaves and **humus**.
- **A horizon** (top soil) is made up of humus mixed with mineral particles. Worms, insects, and fungi live in this area.
- **B horizon** (subsoil) includes clay, sand, and iron that filtrate from the soil above.
- **C horizon** (parent rock) is made up of rock fragments. Very little organic material is found in this area and plant roots normally do not reach it.
- **R horizon** (bedrock) is made up of large underwater rocks that form the base for all of the other layers.

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Soil horizons



Questionnaire Soil

1.- What is soil?

1.-	
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2.- What is weathering process?

2.-	
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3.- What is organic matter?

3.-	
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4.- What is Humus?

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