

Soil

Vocabulary:

Clay: tiny particles of soil that holds water well and provides nutrients

Conservation: using something wisely (not wastefully)

Erosion: the carrying away of material by water, wind, ice, or animals

Humus: organic matter; decayed material that adds nutrients to the soil (most is located in the topsoil)

Natural Resource: it comes from nature

Nutrients: materials that organisms need to live and grow

Sand: tiny fragment of rock

Sediment: tiny particles of matter that forms layers over time

Silt: sand and soil washed by water such as rivers or streams; it collects at the bottom of these aquatic areas where water flows slowly

Soil: made up of rock, clay, silt, sand, and humus

Weathering: breaking down of rocks

Conservation of Soil

- When it precipitates, runoff carries topsoil and fertilizers into water systems, such as the Chesapeake Bay, which causes pollution.
- What can we do to help conserve soil?
 - Keep soil covered with grass or other plants to protect it from erosion.
 - Keep plant coverings alive by watering them as needed and by not playing on them that they wear away.
 - Use a crop rotation system and plant crops that add nutrients to the soil.



The Making of Soil

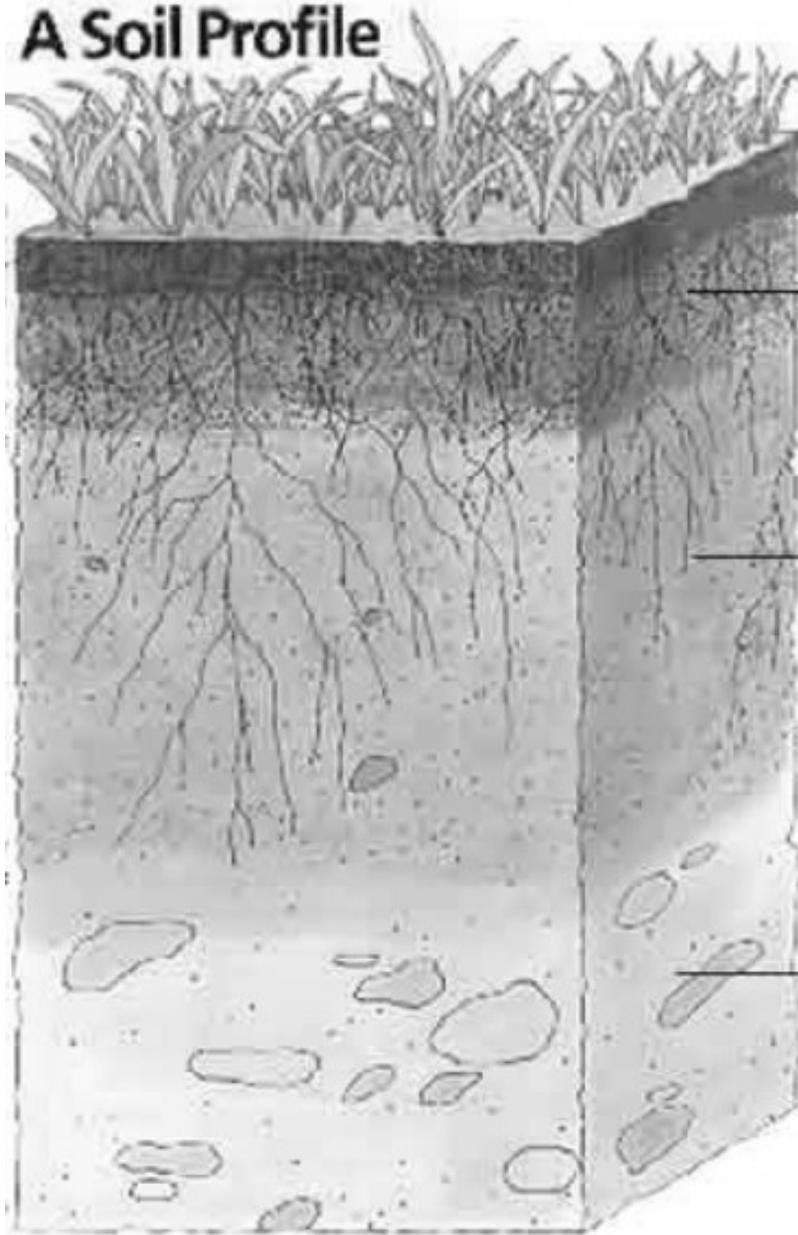
- It takes hundreds of years to make one inch of topsoil.
- Plants and animals die to break down to make humus and rocks are weathered to create soil.

The Importance of Soil

- It is important to us, because it grows plants that provide food, clothing, shelter, oxygen, and energy sources.
- Soil also provides jobs for people, such as farming, logging, and forestry.
- Soil also provides habitats for animals.

The Layers of Soil

A Soil Profile



Topsoil is made from humus, sand, and clay. It is high in nutrients, so it is best for plant growth.

Subsoil is mostly clay. It is heavy, it drains poorly, and it has fewer nutrients for plants.

Bedrock is the bottom layer. It is the base rock for the soil.