

# SORTING SOILS

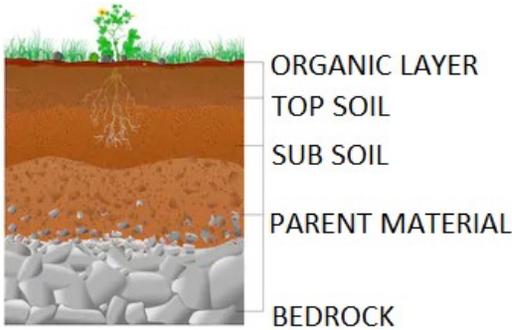


SOIL IS THE EARTH UNDER OUR FEET! IT IS IMPORTANT TO THINGS THAT GROW LIKE PLANTS, ANIMALS AND EVEN HUMANS! IT PROVIDES A HABITAT, IS INVOLVED IN PART OF THE AIR-CREATING PROCESS AND HELPS CLEAN WATER! SOIL IS AMAZING!

## DID YOU KNOW?

**DID YOU KNOW THAT SOIL HAS LAYERS?**

HEAVIER PARTICLES GATHER AT THE BOTTOM WHILE LIGHTER AND LIVING MATERIALS GATHER AT THE TOP!



## FUN FACT:



**A HANDFUL OF SOIL HAS MORE LIVING ORGANISMS IN IT THAN THERE ARE PEOPLE ON EARTH!**

THAT'S JUST HOW ALIVE SOIL TRULY IS!



**CAUTION**  
"DON'T SPOIL THE SOIL!"



**WITHOUT SOIL THERE IS NO LIFE ON EARTH OR FOOD TO EAT! WE MUST TAKE CARE OF IT! KEEP THE SOIL HEALTHY BY NEVER POURING HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS ON IT!**



Let's explore the soil!

# SOIL SURVEY



**ACTIVITY:** WE WANT YOU TO COLLECT SOME SOIL FROM YOUR BACKYARD OR LOCAL PARK! YOU WILL NEED A CLEAR JAR OR BOTTLE WITH A LID. FILL YOUR CONTAINER HALF-FULL WITH SOIL THEN FILL THE REST OF IT WITH WATER. PUT THE LID ON AND SHAKE WELL. ALLOW IT TO SIT, UNDISTURBED, OVERNIGHT. THE SOIL WILL FALL INTO LAYERS FROM HEAVIEST AT THE BOTTOM TO LIGHTEST AT THE TOP (ROCK, SAND AND CLAY FOLLOWED BY WATER THEN ORGANIC MATERIAL ON THE SURFACE)! RECORD YOUR FINDINGS! WHAT DO YOU SEE?



**REGIONAL HIGHLIGHT:** HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED THAT SOME OF THE SOIL IN OUR GREAT STATE OF OKLAHOMA IS ACTUALLY RED INSTEAD OF BROWN? WHAT CAUSES THAT? IT'S IRON IN THE SOIL! THE COLOR OF SOIL IS CREATED BY THE BREAKDOWN OF THE ROCK BENEATH THE TOP SOIL LAYERS! SO THE SOIL COLOR DEPENDS GREATLY ON THE ROCKS THAT ARE UNDERNEATH!