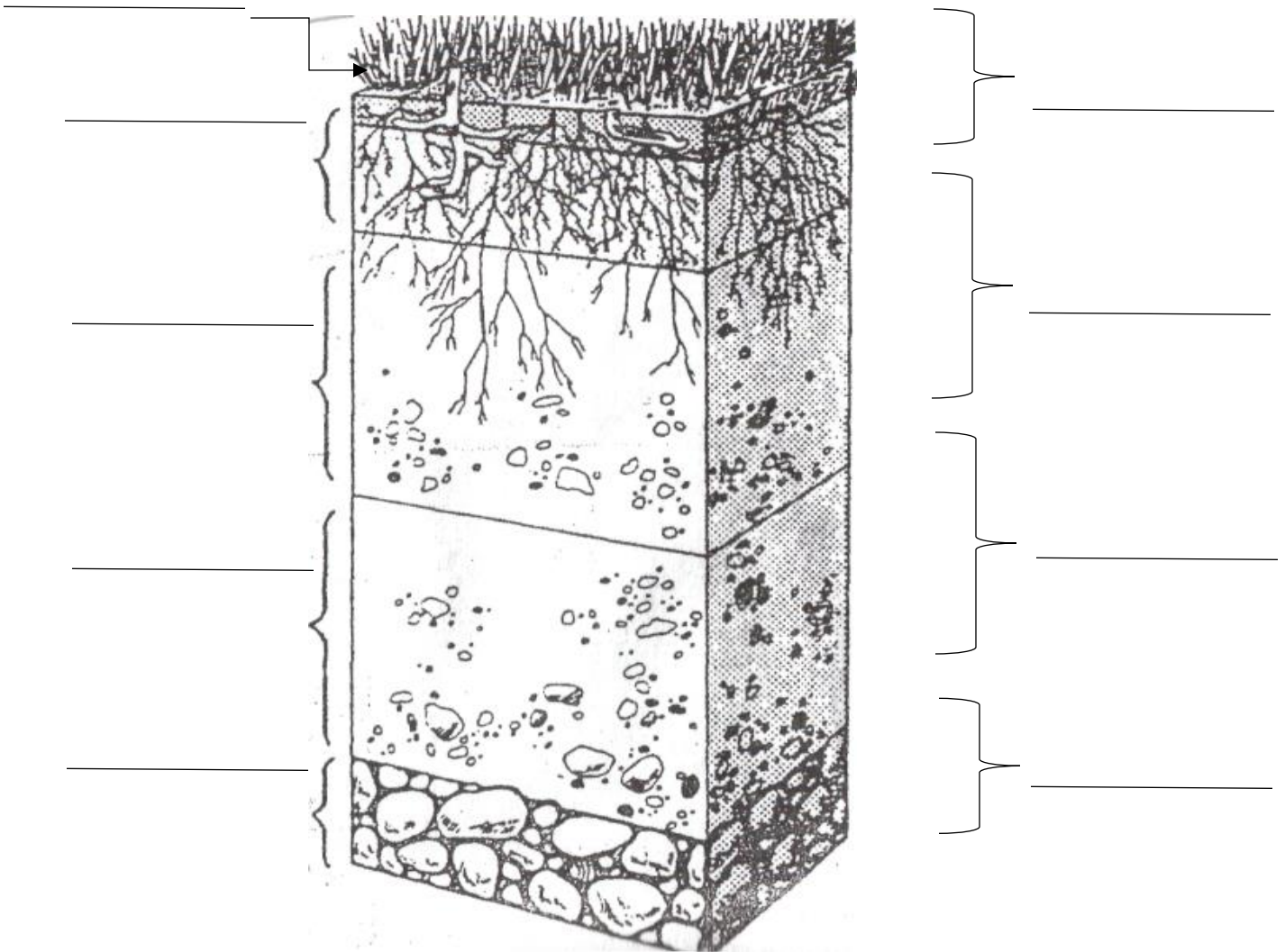


# Soil Horizon Notes

Soil Layers

Horizon Levels



**What is a soil horizon?**

\_\_\_\_\_ is a side profile of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ is divided in \_\_\_\_\_ layers but also includes

the \_\_\_\_\_ above and \_\_\_\_\_ for a total of \_\_\_\_\_ layers.

**What is the O Horizon (aka litter)**

It is not really a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. It lays on top of the \_\_\_\_\_ layer of \_\_\_\_\_. It contains \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**What is the A Horizon? (aka top soil)**

It is the \_\_\_\_\_ of soil and contains \_\_\_\_\_, plant roots, \_\_\_\_\_, water and \_\_\_\_\_ for plant growth. The darker this level, the more \_\_\_\_\_ it contains.

**What is the B Horizon? (aka subsoil)**

It is the \_\_\_\_\_ layer of \_\_\_\_\_ and is lighter in color (more of a \_\_\_\_\_). There are fewer \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ growth.

**What is the C Horizon? (aka parent material)**

This is the \_\_\_\_\_ layer of \_\_\_\_\_. It is the lightest in color – \_\_\_\_\_ and contains no \_\_\_\_\_, animals or \_\_\_\_\_ growth. Consists of mostly \_\_\_\_\_ rock and \_\_\_\_\_.

**What is the R Horizon? (aka bedrock)**

Below the \_\_\_\_\_ layer of \_\_\_\_\_. It is composed of mostly \_\_\_\_\_ that has not been broken down yet.

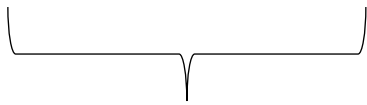
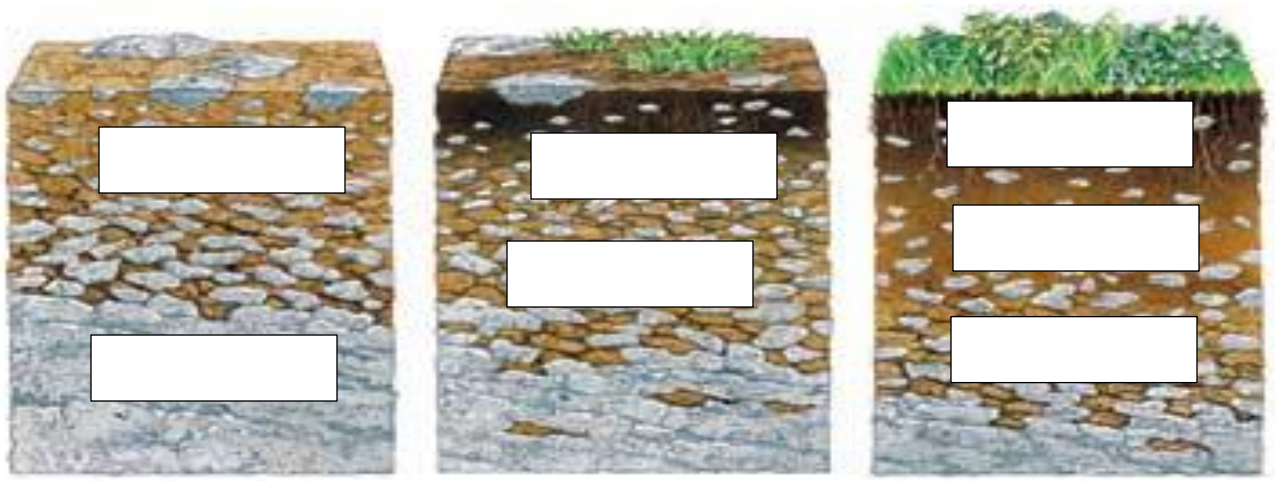
There is no \_\_\_\_\_ in this layer.

**How is soil formed?**

From the \_\_\_\_\_ (breaking down) of \_\_\_\_\_.

Soil forms \_\_\_\_\_ in warm and wet \_\_\_\_\_.

Soil forms \_\_\_\_\_ in cold and dry \_\_\_\_\_.



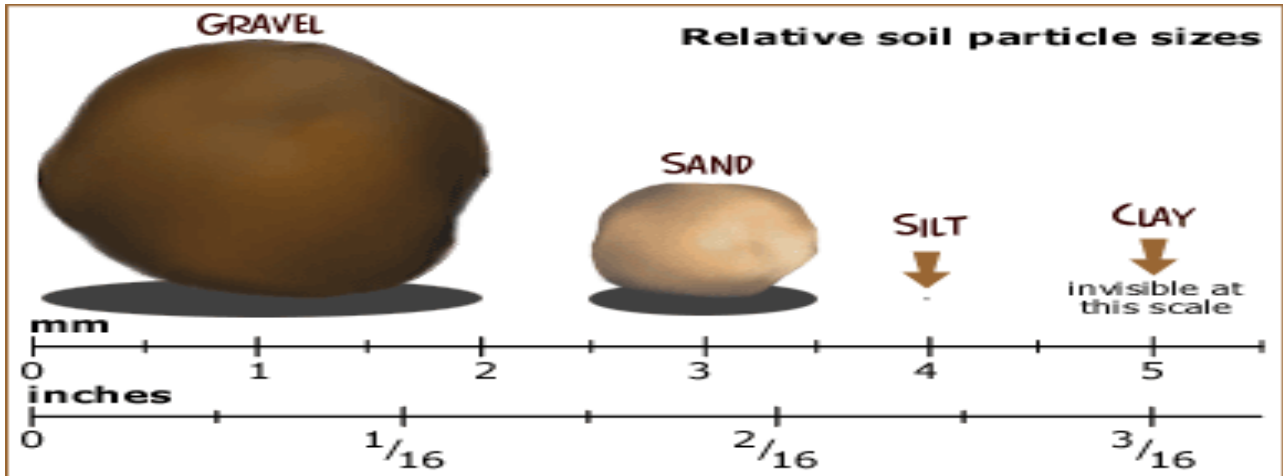
C Horizon forms 1<sup>st</sup> from weathered rock

A Horizon forms 2<sup>nd</sup> as weathered rock mixes with nutrients & organisms

B Horizon forms last as larger sediment settles & shifts down

## What are the characteristics of soil?

Soil is made up of a combination of the particles of gravel, sand, silt and clay and then mixed with organic materials.



Texture: \_\_\_\_\_

Particle Size: mixture of \_\_\_\_\_

pH: \_\_\_\_\_

Water retention: \_\_\_\_\_

Viability: \_\_\_\_\_

