

Soil Notes

What is soil?

-The _____ weathered material on Earth's surface in which plants can grow

What is the main ingredient of soil?

-The main _____ for soil is the solid layer of rock beneath the soil called - _____.

Soil Composition

-soil is a mixture of rock particles, minerals, _____ organic material, water and air
-known as sand, silt, clay and _____

What is humus?

- _____ organic material in soil from plant and animal remains
-Provides spaces in soil for water and air
-Also contains many _____ that plants need to grow
-Often _____ in color

Soil Fertility

-The _____ of how well soil supports plant growth
-Soil rich in humus has _____ a - _____ content
-Sandy soil has low humus and a - _____ fertility content

Soil texture

-depends on the size of soil _____
- _____ feels coarse and grainy
- _____ feels smooth and silky
- _____ is dry or moist and sticky
-classified by size (smallest to largest)
Clay, silt, _____ and gravel

What is loam?

-Soil that is made of _____ parts clay, silt and sand and holds air and water

Process of soil formation

-soil forms as rock is broken down by - _____ and mixes with other materials on the surface

-soil is _____ being formed wherever _____ is exposed

-soil forms into _____ or layers

How does soil form?

-a layer of soil that differs in color and - _____ from the layers above or below it

What is a soil horizon?

What are the different soil horizons, what are their characteristics?

-Horizon A- _____ - a crumbly, dark brown soil with a mixture of humus, clay, and other _____

-Horizon B - _____ - clay and other particles washed down from A, little humus

-Horizon C - _____ rock

What are living organisms role in soil?

-These living things make humus and other _____ that make soil fertile

-These creatures mix the soil and make - _____ for water and air

What is litter?

-the loose layer of dead _____ leaves and stems on the soil surface

What is a decomposer?

- _____ that live in soil and turn dead organic material into humus

-Includes fungi, _____, worms and other small animals or bugs

- _____ do most of the work, they eat their way through the soil and carry soil between layers, the waste is enriched with _____