

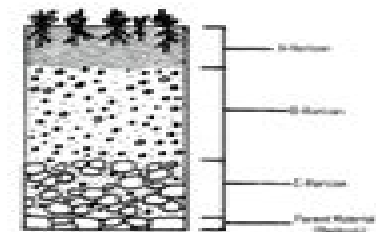
Soil Formation Worksheet

Soil is a mixture of weathered rock & organic matter that usually covers **bedrock** (solid rock that underlies all soil). Both chemical & mechanical processes are involved in the development of soils.

- Chemical weathering turns hard minerals into soft ones
- Mechanical weathering breaks solid rock into smaller pieces
- Plant & animals add organic materials in the form of waste products & dead organisms
- The decay of organic matter produces acids which accelerate chemical weathering
- Burrowing Animals, such as earthworms, insects, & rodents, help circulate air and water through the soil & mix mineral & organic remains

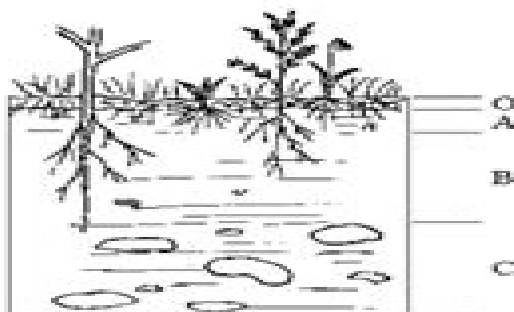
The material from which soil forms is called its **parent material**. Soil that has weathered directly from the bedrock beneath it and therefore matches its parent material is called **residual soil**.

Soil that does not match the bedrock it is over is called **transported soil**. It did not weather from the bedrock beneath it but was brought there by agents of erosion such as winds, rivers, or glaciers. Much of New England & the Midwest are covered by soil that was deposited by the movement of glaciers after the last Ice Age.



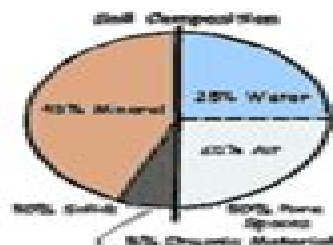
A cross section of soil exposed by digging is called the **soil profile**. The weathering of soil produces layers known as **soil horizons**. The topsoil or **A horizon** is usually rich in dark-colored organic remains called **humus** (labeled **O horizon** below). The

subsoil or **B horizon** contains minerals that have been transported deeper by groundwater. Most of the clay in soil has also been washed down to this layer. The partially weathered bedrock or **C horizon** is composed of broken up bedrock on top of the solid bedrock (parent material).



Soil erosion is the removal of topsoil by the action of running water or wind. It takes between 100 & 400 years for one centimeter of topsoil to form.

Loss of topsoil can be caused when plants root are no longer present to hold down soil. Salting roads can raise the salinity of the soil and kill the plants. Over grazing can kill plants. Winds construction, & mining can all effect plant cover.

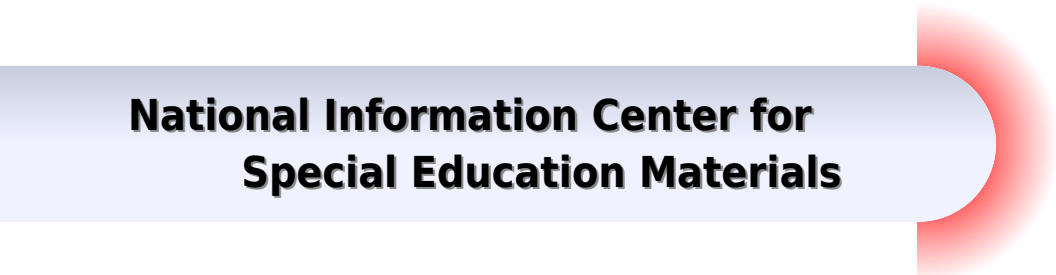


Means of soil conservation include the following:

- **Windbreaks** – belts of trees along the edge of fields
- **Contour farming** – crops are planted in rows parallel to land contours
- **Terraces**– flattening hill slopes to slow the flow of water & erosion
- **Strip Cropping** – a crop that leaves bare ground between rows is alternated with a crop that completely covers the ground, ex. Corn & Alfalfa
- **No-till method**– plowing, planting and fertilizing are all done at the same time so there is less chance of wind removing topsoil.

Answer Key Guided Reading Weathering Soil Formation

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Answer Key Guided Reading Weathering Soil Formation:

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Student Study Guide to Accompany Botany, Second Edition, Moore, Clark, Vodopich Rebecca McBride DiLiddo, Randy Moore, 1998 House & Garden, 1954 **Publications Series**, 1976 **Teacher's Guide to Using the Next Generation Science Standards With Gifted and Advanced Learners** Cheryll M. Adams, Alicia Cotabish, Debbie Dailey, 2021-09-23 A Teacher's Guide to Using the Next Generation Science Standards With Gifted and Advanced Learners provides teachers and administrators with practical examples of ways to build comprehensive coherent and rigorous science learning experiences for gifted and advanced students from kindergarten to high school. It provides an array of examples across the four domains of science: physical sciences, Earth and space sciences, life sciences, and engineering technology and applications of science. Each learning experience indicates the performance expectation addressed and includes a sequence of activities, implementation examples, connections to the CCSS Math and CCSS ELA, and formative assessments. Chapters on specific instructional and management strategies, assessment, and professional development suggestions for implementing the standards within the classroom will be helpful for both teachers and administrators. *Publications* Natural Environment Research Council (Great Britain), 1976 *World Studies: Eastern Hemisphere* Heidi Hayes Jacobs, Michal L. LeVasseur, 2004-08 Foundations of geography World of geography Earth's physical geography Earth's human geography Cultures of the world Interacting with our environment Europe and Russia Europe and Russia physical geography Europe and Russia shaped by history Cultures of Europe and Russia Western Europe Eastern Europe and Russia Africa Africa physical geography Africa shaped by its history Cultures of Africa North Africa West Africa Exploring East Africa Central and Southern Africa Asia and the Pacific East Asia physical geography South Southwestern and Central Asia physical geography Southeast Asia and the Pacific region physical geography East Asia cultures and history South and Southeast Asia cultures and history Southeast Asia and the Pacific region cultures and history East Asia South Southwestern and Central Asia Southeast Asia and the Pacific region Glossary **Index to Media and Materials for the Mentally Retarded, Specific Learning Disabled, Emotionally Disturbed** National Information Center for Special Education Materials, 1978

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