

## Ecology: Soil and Its Formation

1. Is there a relationship between the colour of the soil and the amount of organic matter. If so, describe the relationship.
2. What rock type might produce soils with a neutral or a high pt.
3. Explain how the organic content so a soil might affect plant growth.
4. What is soil erosion?
5. Which plants do best in acidic soil?
6. Arrange the following soil horizon from surface layer to the lowest layer: subsoil, litter, topsoil, bedrock
7. Match the term in the right column with the appropriate definition in the left column by writing the correct term in the space next to the definition.

### Column A

erosion  
aeration  
clay  
silt  
humus  
sand

### Column B

\_\_\_\_\_ soil made of medium-sized particles  
\_\_\_\_\_ decaying plant and animal matter  
\_\_\_\_\_ process that breaks or wears down rock  
\_\_\_\_\_ soil made up of large particles  
\_\_\_\_\_ soil made up of the smallest particles  
\_\_\_\_\_ process of increasing oxygen in soil

8. What is humus?
9. Why is humus an important part of soil?
10. How do earthworms help keep soil fertile?