

## WebQuest (Part I) – “The Nature of Soil”

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Click the links below to visit the sites. Record collected information in the spaces below.

### Section 1: What is Soil? – Click link for the Study Jams slide show

1. Soil is a mixture of \_\_\_\_\_ rock, decayed \_\_\_\_\_ matter, \_\_\_\_\_ fragments, water, and air.
  - a. When something is decaying, it is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. Soil takes \_\_\_\_\_ of years to form because the weathering process and decaying process takes a long time.
  - c. Because it takes so long to form, soil would be considered a \_\_\_\_\_ resource.

### Section 2: Soil Composition – Use this site to find the information below. Click on all links.

1. Define Composition:
2. Weathered Rock: As rocks are broken down, the sediments become a part of soil.
  - a. The three types of weathered rock found in soil are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Organic Material: The soft parts of soil that come from plants and animals.
  - a. Define Humus:
4. A good quality soil will have equal amounts of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Play the Soil composition game [HERE](#). See if you can match the ingredients.

### Section 3: Soil Formation – Click link for information on factors affecting soil formation.

Describe the factors that affect soil formation in the chart below. Tell HOW they affect soil formation!!!

Factor Affecting Soil	HOW it affects soil formation
<u>Climate</u>	
<u>Slope (Relief)</u>	

<b><u>Parent Material</u></b>	
<b><u>Vegetation</u></b>	
<b><u>Time of weathering</u></b>	

[Section 4: Soil Profile](#) – Click link to watch the Brainpop video for Soil.

[Soil Horizons](#) – Click link for more information on soil horizons.

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ refers to different layers of soil.
2. Soil is broken up into \_\_\_\_\_ main layers.

**Draw a picture of a soil profile in the box below. Label each layer.**

<b><u>Soil Profile</u></b>	<p>The O Horizon is a layer that _____</p> <p>The A Horizon is also known as _____. It contains a lot of organic matter from _____.</p> <p>The B Horizon is also known as _____. It has some nutrients in it because of the process of _____.</p> <p>The C Horizon is also known as _____. It is the thickest layer and provides rocks for the layers above.</p> <p>The D Horizon is known as _____.</p>
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**Important Notes:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is leaves, twigs, and organic material that can eventually be broken down in humus and provide nutrients to the soil.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is the process where minerals are dissolved in water and are moved down from the top layer to lower layers.
3. **Play the Soil Horizon matching game [HERE](#) to practice the information.**