

Science

SOL 3.7 Soil

1. Soil is important because many plants grow in soil, and it provides support and nutrients for the plants.
2. Over many years, weather, water, and living things help break down rocks and create soil (weathering).
3. Nutrients are materials that plants and animals need to live and grow.
4. Rock, clay, silt, sand, and humus are components of soil.
5. *Topsoil* is the upper soil surface and a natural product of subsoil and bedrock. Topsoil is best for plant growth.
6. *Subsoil* and *bedrock* are layers of soil under the topsoil that are formed over a long period of time.
7. Subsoil and bedrock are not as good for growing plants as is topsoil.
8. *Humus* (organic material) is decayed matter in soil. It adds nutrients to the soil. Most of it is located in the topsoil.
9. *Clay* contains tiny particles of soil that hold water well and provides nutrients.
10. *Sand* is made up of larger grains of worn-down rock, has few nutrients, and does not hold water well.
11. *Silt* is made up of very small broken pieces of rock. Its particles are larger than clay and smaller than sand.
12. Since soil takes a long time to form, it should be conserved, not wasted.
13. Erosion is when soil is moved by water, wind, or ice. This is bad for the soil and can be prevented by planting flowers, trees, or grass.