



Sub: Science



Topic

Soil

Class : 3rd

CBSE

Board



Soil is a natural resource.

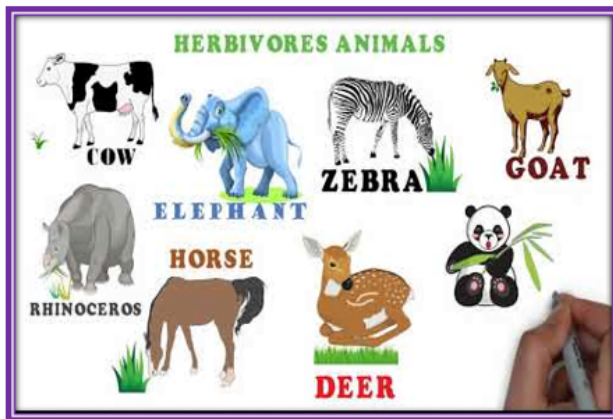
**It is the top, thin layer
of Earth where
plants grow.**



**Soil gives water and food
to the plants.**



Humans and animals eat plants to live.



Without soil there would be
.....no life on Earth.



Soil is made up of

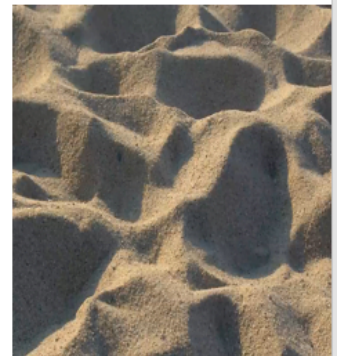
- weathered rock,
- living matter,
- decaying plants
- and animals.



Formation of soil

Soil is formed by the weathering of rocks.

Weathering is breaking down of rocks into smaller pieces.



When these smaller pieces of rock break down further, they form sand.

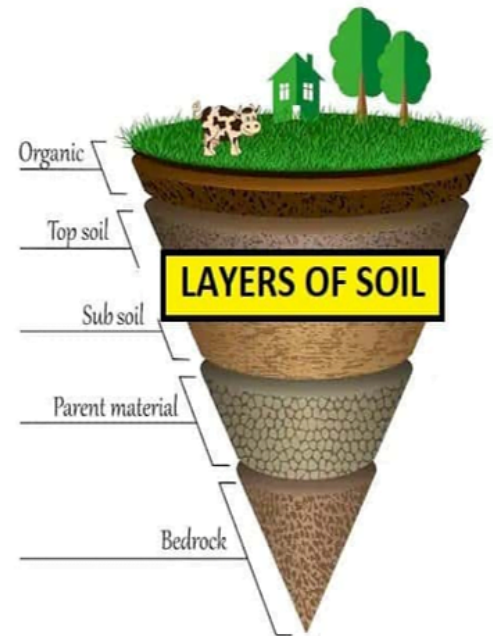
This sand along with the decaying plants, animals and living matter forms the soil.



Layers of soil

Topsoil - Topsoil is the uppermost layer of soil. It is on the Earth's surface or just below it. It is the most fertile layer of the soil.

Subsoil - Subsoil is below the top soil. It contains topsoil - small particles such as sand and silt. It is less fertile than topsoil.

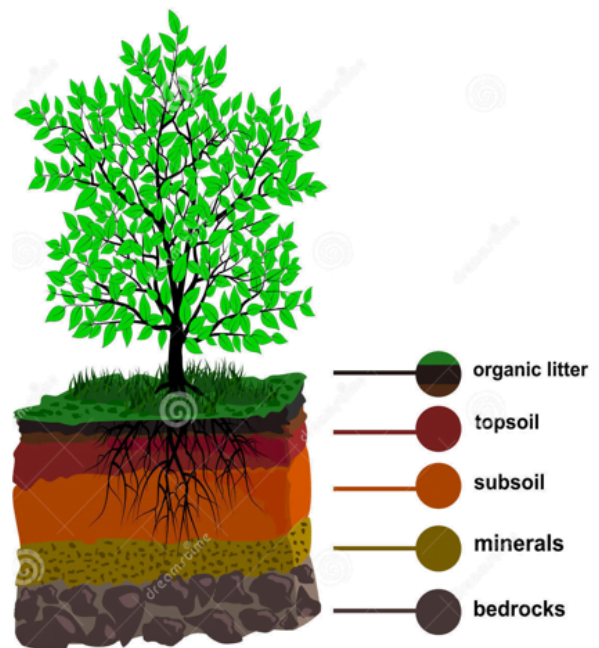


Layers of soil

Weathered rock fragments -

The next layer below the subsoil has weathered rock fragments. These are small pieces of rocks formed due to the weathering of the bedrock.

Bedrock - The layer at the bottom is called bedrock. It has unbroken solid rocks.



Types of soil

1. Sandy soil
2. loamy soil
3. Clayey soil



Three main types of soil found in different parts of the world. Each of these soils look different, feel different and have different water-holding capacity. Based on their characteristics, different soils have different uses.

Soil Erosion

When the top fertile layer of the soil is washed away by natural forces like water or wind, it is called soil erosion.



Besides the natural forces, deforestation plays a part in soil erosion too.

When trees are cut down, there are no roots to hold the soil so it can get washed away by water or blown away by the wind.

Overgrazing by cattle also leads to soil erosion.



Crops cannot grow in an area where **the soil has been eroded and this affects the life of people living in that region.**



Soil conservation

Stopping the loss of soil caused by soil erosion is called soil conservation.

Afforestation and keeping a check on overgrazing are some of the methods of soil conservation.



Soil



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Sweet Ojal