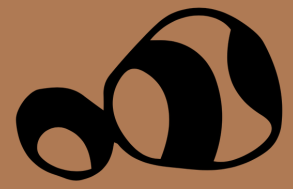




Wonders of Soil Vocabulary



This vocabulary list is targeted for second and third grade students.

- **Bedrock:** Largely comprised of continuous masses of hard rock.
- **Compost:** A mixture of decaying organic matter used to fertilize the soil, usually made by gathering plant material, such as leaves, grass clippings, and vegetable peels, into a pile or bin for decomposition.
- **Conserve:** To save, preserve or protect.
- **Decomposition:** The state or process of rotting or decay.
- **Environment:** The surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives or operates. The natural world as a whole or in a particular geographical area.
- **Erosion:** Naturally occurring process in which rocks and sediments are picked up and moved to another place by ice, water, wind, and gravity.
- **Fungus:** Among the most widely distributed species on Earth, commonly known for its role in the decomposition of organic matter.
- **Habitat:** The natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism.
- **Humus:** The organic component of soil, formed by the decomposition of leaves and other plant material by soil microorganisms.
- **Lichen:** A symbiotic partnership of two separate organisms, fungi and algae, forming another organism.
- **Natural Resource:** Materials or substances such as a forest, a mineral deposit, or water, formed in nature and is necessary or useful to humans
- **Organic Material:** Matter composed of organic compounds that have come from the remains of an organism.
- **Parent Material:** Sedimentary deposits; a larger layer of large unbroken rocks.
- **Soil:** The upper layer of earth in which plants grow. Typically consisting of a mixture of organic remains, clay, and rock particles.
- **Subsoil:** The subsurface layer that collects iron, clay, aluminum, and organic particles; also contains humus.
- **Topsoil:** First layer; organic material mixed with mineral matter.

Learn more at:



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