

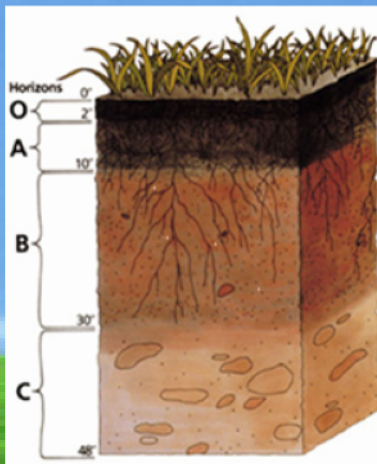


# It's True: "Soil" saves the day!



Soil Horizons are the various layers of soil stacked on top of each other. Each layer varies in color, texture, structure and thickness.

Most soils have three (3) major horizons. A is the surface, B is the subsoil, and C is the substratum. O is the organic layer sometimes found on the surface.



## LIFE BEGINS IN THE SOIL!!

SOIL is a complex mix of ingredients: minerals, air, water, many organisms, and the decaying remains of once-living things. Soil make our lives possible. Our houses and/or apartments are built on it, we play on it, drive our cars on it, our food crops is grown in or raised on it, our medicines are made from it, our clothes comes from it, the water we drink is cleaned with it, and the air we breathe wouldn't be possible without the plants and trees growing in soils. The entire earth—every ecosystem, every living organism is dependent upon soils!

Did you know that soil is alive! One tablespoon of soil has more organisms in it than people on Earth. That's a whole lot of life in a little bit of soil! It takes 500 years to form an inch of soil on top of the ground. Wow — that's a long time to make such a small amount! In one gram of soil, there are over 5,000 different types of bacteria. That is why soil is a key component to develop our medicines! And, there are more than 70,000 types of soils in the United States!

Soil is also fragile. It erodes and breaks down due to wind, rain, and various uses. Without the proper management of our soils, food production, habitat, development, and all other activities that use soil as a key ingredient could be harmed!

Learn more how to be a soil steward by talking with experts of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and your county Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)! Get your parents permission and check out more information on our websites!



OFSWCD  
Ohio Federation of Soil &  
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[www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov)

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