

# Land



# Land Use

- humans use land to raise food, for houses, businesses, schools, and roads
- animals and plants also need space to survive
- the amount of land is limited and people must use it wisely to preserve habitat and provide for people.



# Soil

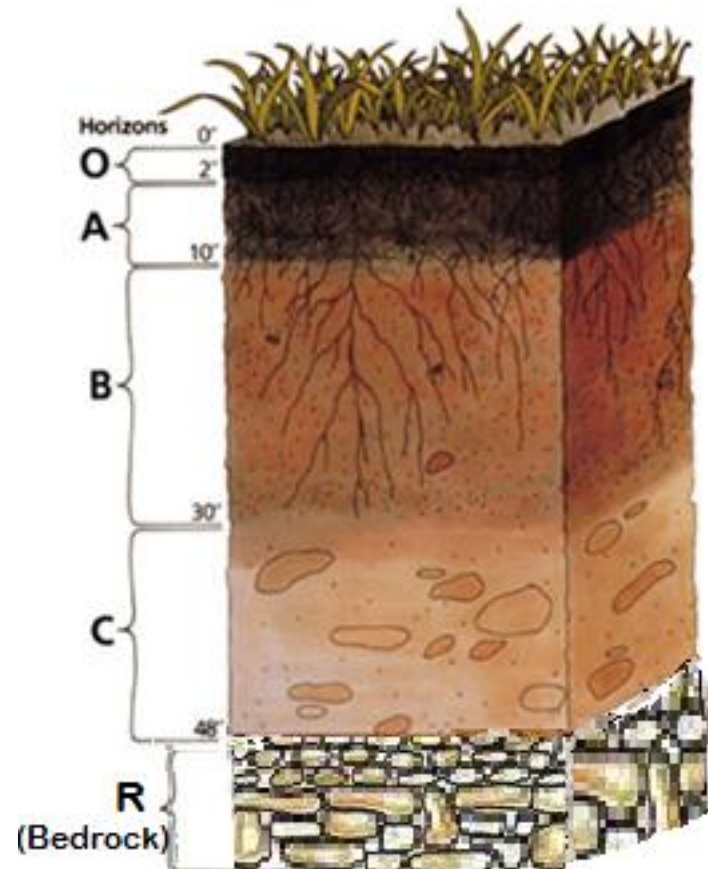
- is a blend of rock and mineral fragments, water, air, and humus. It can take thousands of years to form soil, as plants break down rock and then die to form part of the soil.
- humus – partially or wholly decayed animal and vegetable matter.





# Horizons of Soil

- Topsoil – the top layer that contains lots of humus. It is covered by a layer of litter or partially decomposed plants.
- subsoil – lighter in color but also clay.
- partially broken down rocks and minerals
- bedrock – rock that has not broken down yet.



# Breaking down rocks and soil

- weathering is the mechanical and chemical breakdown of rocks and soil by rain, snow, cold, and pressure. No movement.
- erosion is the wearing away of rocks and soil by water, wind, and ice. Movement.



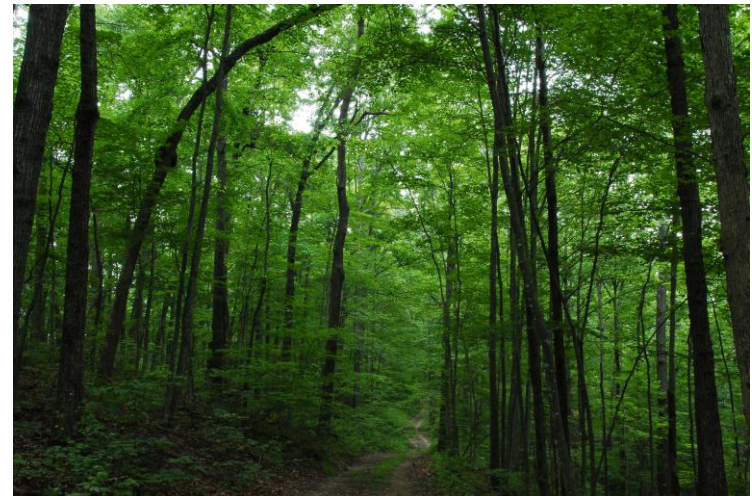
# types of soil

- Sand – consists of rocks and minerals that are very small. Does not hold water well.
- Clay – very fine grains of material that holds water.
- Peat – high in dead and decayed organic matter.



# Land Resources

- Minerals: solid, inorganic, material made of the same substance such as iron or cobalt.
- Forests: a dense growth of trees and underbrush covering a large tract of land.





# Forests Conservation

- In select-cutting a few trees are cut and new trees are planted to replace them.
- In clear-cutting all the trees are cut in an area and new trees are planted to replace them.





# Mining

- Ore is a rock containing minerals
- Large quantities of soil and rock must be removed to get ores.
- A large amount of amount of ore is required to get a small amount of pure mineral.



# Land Use in the U.S.

- Over half of the land in the U.S. is forest or grassland.
- 20% of land in the US is used for farms.

