

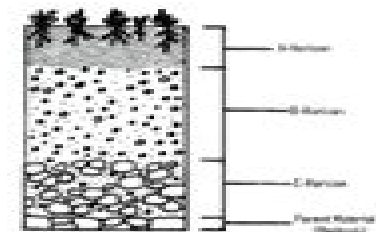
Soil Formation Worksheet

Soil is a mixture of weathered rock & organic matter that usually covers **bedrock** (solid rock that underlies all soil). Both chemical & mechanical processes are involved in the development of soils.

- Chemical weathering turns hard minerals into soft ones
- Mechanical weathering breaks solid rock into smaller pieces
- Plant & animals add organic materials in the form of waste products & dead organisms
- The decay of organic matter produces acids which accelerate chemical weathering
- Burrowing Animals, such as earthworms, insects, & rodents, help circulate air and water through the soil & mix mineral & organic remains

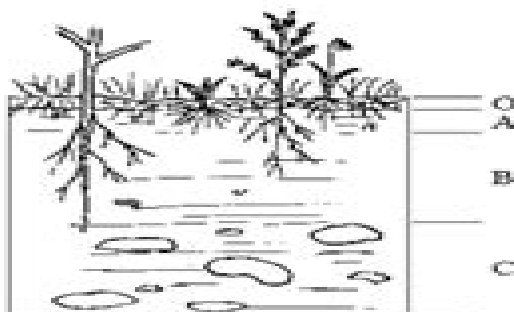
The material from which soil forms is called its **parent material**. Soil that has weathered directly from the bedrock beneath it and therefore matches its parent material is called **residual soil**.

Soil that does not match the bedrock it is over is called **transported soil**. It did not weather from the bedrock beneath it but was brought there by agents of erosion such as winds, rivers, or glaciers. Much of New England & the Midwest are covered by soil that was deposited by the movement of glaciers after the last Ice Age.



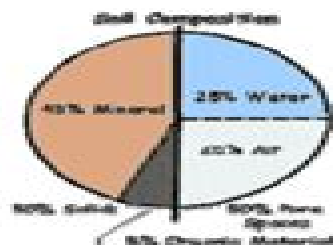
A cross section of soil exposed by digging is called the **soil profile**. The weathering of soil produces layers known as **soil horizons**. The topsoil or **A horizon** is usually rich in dark-colored organic remains called **humus** (labeled **O horizon** below). The

subsoil or **B horizon** contains minerals that have been transported deeper by groundwater. Most of the clay in soil has also been washed down to this layer. The partially weathered bedrock or **C horizon** is composed of broken up bedrock on top of the solid bedrock (parent material).



Soil erosion is the removal of topsoil by the action of running water or wind. It takes between 100 & 400 years for one centimeter of topsoil to form.

Loss of topsoil can be caused when plants root are no longer present to hold down soil. Salting roads can raise the salinity of the soil and kill the plants. Over grazing can kill plants. Winds construction, & mining can all effect plant cover.



Means of soil conservation include the following:

- **Windbreaks** – belts of trees along the edge of fields
- **Contour farming** – crops are planted in rows parallel to land contours
- **Terraces**- flattening hill slopes to slow the flow of water & erosion
- **Strip Cropping** – a crop that leaves bare ground between rows is alternated with a crop that completely covers the ground, ex. Corn & Alfalfa
- **No-till method**- plowing, planting and fertilizing are all done at the same time so there is less chance of wind removing topsoil.

Answer Key Guided Reading Weathering Soil Formation

**Allan E. Hewitt, Megan R. Balks, David
J. Lowe**



Answer Key Guided Reading Weathering Soil Formation:

Prentice Hall Science Explorer Michael J. Padilla, 2002 **Focus on Earth Science**, 2001 **Earth Science**, 2001

Teacher's Guide to Using the Next Generation Science Standards With Gifted and Advanced Learners Cheryll M.

Adams, Alicia Cotabish, Debbie Dailey, 2021-09-23 A Teacher's Guide to Using the Next Generation Science Standards With Gifted and Advanced Learners provides teachers and administrators with practical examples of ways to build comprehensive coherent and rigorous science learning experiences for gifted and advanced students from kindergarten to high school. It provides an array of examples across the four domains of science: physical sciences, Earth and space sciences, life sciences, and engineering technology and applications of science. Each learning experience indicates the performance expectation addressed and includes a sequence of activities, implementation examples, connections to the CCSS Math and CCSS ELA, and formative assessments. Chapters on specific instructional and management strategies, assessment, and professional development suggestions for implementing the standards within the classroom will be helpful for both teachers and administrators.

Paleosols and weathering through geologic time Juergen Reinhardt, Wayne R. Sigleo, 1988 **The Soils of Aotearoa New Zealand** Allan E. Hewitt, Megan R. Balks, David J. Lowe, 2021-02-19 This book offers an introduction to the soils of Aotearoa New Zealand structured according to the New Zealand soil classification system. Starting with an overview of the importance and distribution of New Zealand soils, it subsequently provides essential information on each of the 15 New Zealand soil orders in separate chapters. Each chapter, illustrated with diagrams and photographs in colour, includes a summary of the main features of the soils in the order, their genesis and relationships with landscapes, their key properties, including examples of physical and chemical characteristics, and their classification, use, and management. The book then features a chapter on soils in the Ross Sea region of Antarctica and concludes by considering New Zealand soils in a global context, soil formation pathways, and methods used in New Zealand to evaluate soils and assist in land management decisions. Information about how to access detailed information via links to the Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research website is also included.

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National Information Center for Special Education Materials, 1978 *History of the School of Geology and Geophysics, The University of Oklahoma*, 1990

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