

SOIL LAYERS

Learn about the layers of soil by making a fun hands-on model.

INSTRUCTIONS:

STEP 1: Print out the tree template.

STEP 2: Using card stock, cut out the tree and trunk. Glue them together and set aside.

STEP 3: Paint each of your rice cakes to represent each of the different layers: hummus, top soil, sub soil, parent material, and bedrock.

STEP 4: Once dry, stack them in order on top of each other.

STEP 5: Make a slit in the top cake and add your tree. Paint roots on the side of your model.

SUPPLIES

Tree template
5 Rice Cakes
Acrylic paint
Card stock
Glue stick
Paintbrush

SOIL LAYERS

Soil is a very important part of our planet. It is where plants grow and where animals make their homes. Each layer of soil has its own special characteristics that are important for plants to grow.

From top down:

HUMUS: Organic, rich material is the upper layer.

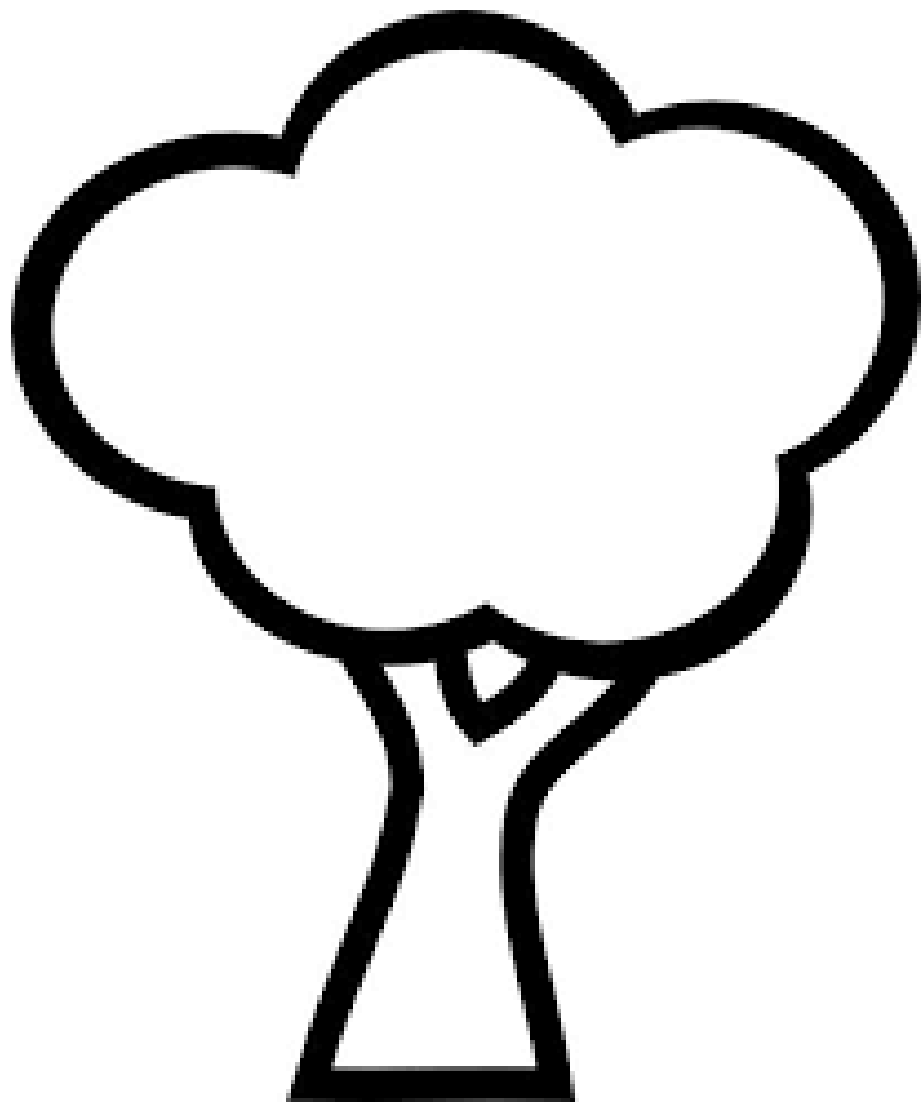
TOP SOIL: Another upper layer that is mostly organic.

SUB SOIL: Not so organic but rich in minerals.

PARENT MATERIAL: Nothing living and full of rock fragments.

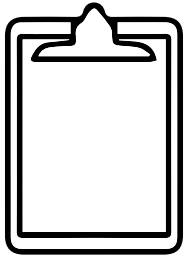
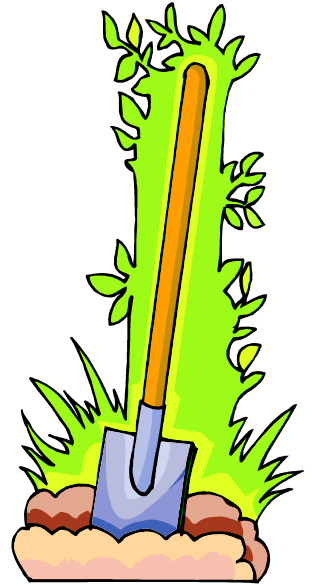
BEDROCK: Almost solid rock.





Soil Layers Observations

Use this worksheet to process and evaluate your work.



RECORD

Go outside and dig up about 6 inches of dirt.

What is the color of the top layer of soil? Is it dark or light?
Is it uniform or are there variations in color?

Can you see any organic matter, such as leaves or dead plants, in the top layer of soil?

How deep is the top layer of soil? Can you see any roots from plants growing in it?

Can you see any rocks or minerals in the subsoil layer?
