

Name _____

SOILS WEBQUEST

DIRECTIONS: Follow the links to answer the questions. Attach a sheet of paper if you need more room.

Part A. What makes up soil?

(Link #1 - <http://www.kidsgeo.com/geology-for-kids/0009-components-of-soil.php>)

1. What are the components of soil?
2. Why would you NOT find soils on Mars or Venus?
3. Where do the minerals (inorganic materials) that form soil come from?
4. How is the air found in soils different from the air in the atmosphere?
5. Why is water such an important component of soils?

Part B. Soil Formation (Link #2& #3 – <http://agverra.com/blog/soil-types/> and http://forces.si.edu/soils/02_01_04.html)

1. About how many different kinds of soil are there in the United States?
2. What does CIORPT stand for? What factors make up CIORPT?

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3. How does climate affect soil formation?

4. How do organisms affect soils?

5. What is “relief” and how does it affect soil formation?

6. Where can the parent material for a soil come from?

7. How can time affect soils?

Part C. Soil Structure (Link #4 – www.enchantedlearning.com/geology/soil/)

1. Tape or paste the soil table into your notebook. Then, fill in the table with the following Soil Horizons: A, B, C, E, O, R

2. What types of material makes up the O Horizon?

3. How is the A Horizon different from the O? What is *eluviation* and what causes it?

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4. What is the common process occurring the in B Horizon? Why do you think the B Horizon is sometimes called the “Zone of Accumulation”?
5. How are the C & R Horizons related?

Part D. Properties of Soils (Link #5 –


http://www.soil-net.com/primary/ks2/topic6/topic6_factsheet.pdf

What are the four most important properties of soil?

1. What are the three basic textures that a soil can have?
2. What are *porosity* and *permeability*? How are they related?
http://www.classzone.com/books/earth_science/terc/content/investigations/es1401/es1401page04.cfm

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Soil Layers



The diagram shows a cross-section of the ground. At the top, there is a tree with a large, rounded canopy and a smaller bush with a spiky top. Their roots extend into the soil. The soil is divided into several layers, each with a different texture: the top layer is dotted, the next has small circles, the third has larger circles and small squares, the fourth has even larger circles, and the bottom layer is solid. To the right of the diagram are six horizontal lines for labeling.

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