

Chapter 5 Weathering, Soil, and Mass Movements

## Section 5.2 Soil

(pages 133–142)

*This section describes the characteristics of soil.*

### Reading Strategy (page 133)

**Comparing and Contrasting** As you read this section, compare the three types of soils by completing the table. For more information on this Reading Strategy, see the **Reading and Study Skills** in the **Skills and Reference Handbook** at the end of your textbook.

Soil Type	Where It's Found
Pedalfer	a. temperate, forested areas that receive more than 63 cm of rain each year
Pedocal	b.
Laterite	c.

### Characteristics of Soil (pages 133–135)

*Match each description to its term.*

- | Description  | Term        |
|--|-------------|
| _____ 1. layer of rock and mineral fragments                 | a. soil     |
| _____ 2. part of the regolith that supports growth of plants | b. humus    |
| _____ 3. decayed remains of organisms                        | c. regolith |
4. Is the following sentence true or false? Soil has four major components: mineral matter, humus, water, and air. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Humus is a source of plant nutrients, and it increases soil's ability to \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about the functions that soil water serves in the soil.
- a. Soil water provides the moisture needed for chemical reactions.
  - b. Soil water provides nutrients in a form that plants can use.
  - c. All soils contain the same amount of soil water.

### Soil Formation (pages 135–137)

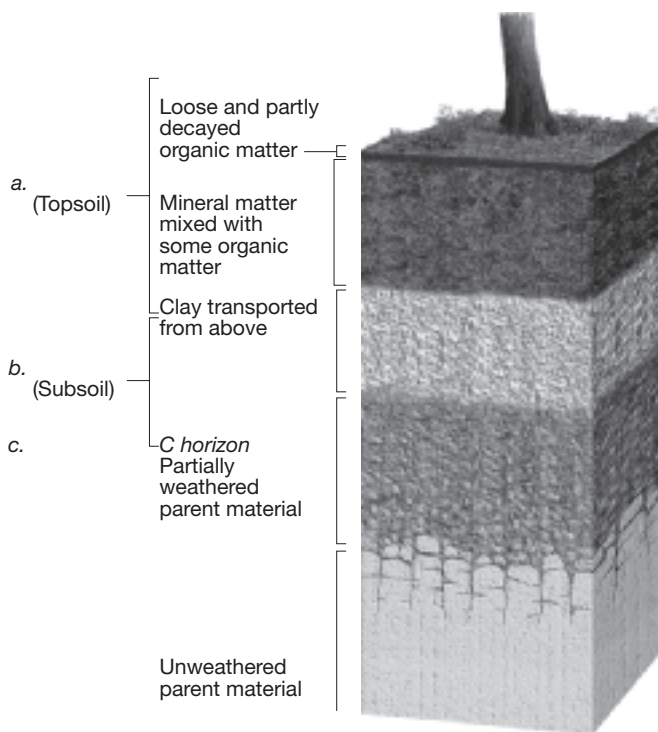
7. The most important factors in soil formation are parent materials, time, climate, organisms, and \_\_\_\_\_.

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**The Soil Profile (page 138)**

8. Use the terms in the box to label each soil horizon shown in the figure.

A horizon      B horizon      C horizon



**Soil Types (pages 139–142)**

9. 🎧 Three common types of soil are pedalfer, pedocal, and \_\_\_\_\_.

**Soil Erosion (pages 140–142)**

10. 🎧 Is the following sentence true or false? Human activities, such as farming, logging, and construction, have slowed down the amount of erosion that occurs today. \_\_\_\_\_

11. Is the following sentence true or false? In many regions of the world, soil is eroding faster than it is being formed. \_\_\_\_\_