***Soil Vocabulary***

\_\_\_Soil\_\_\_\_\_\_- a mixture of weathered rock particles, minerals, decaying organic material, water, and air found on Earth’s surface in which plants can grow

\_\_\_decomposer\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_- An organism, often bacteria or fungus, that feeds on and breaks down dead plant or animal matter, turning it into humus.

*Examples—bacteria, mushrooms, worms*

\_\_\_\_organic\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-made from once living plant and animals

\_\_compost\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_- mixture of decaying organic matter, as from leaves and manure, used to improve soil structure and provide nutrients

\_\_\_soil horizons\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_- Layers of soil that differ in color, texture, and composition (See below)

***Soil Profile–*** *a vertical section of the soil extending through all its horizons and parent material.*

\_\_\_humus\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-dark colored substance that forms

as plant and animal remains decay.

\_\_\_topsoil\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_- crumbly, dark brown soil that is

a mixture of humus, clay, bits of rock, and other minerals.

\*Great for growing plants.

\_\_subsoil\_\_\_\_\_\_- consists of clay, small rocks broken

up by tree roots, and other particles washed down from

the topsoil. There is very little organic matter in this layer.

\_\_\_\_bedrock\_\_\_\_\_\_\_- the solid layer of rock beneath

the soil. Minerals in this rock help determine the type of

soil that forms.

**Soil Formation and Conservation**

**Why is soil a valuable natural resource?** (pg. 98 & 102)

1. Everything that lives on land depends on soil

  

1. Limited Supply
	1. >1/8 of land on Earth is suitable for farming
2. One inch of topsoil takes \_\_\_thousands\_\_\_\_ of years to form.

**\_\_\_soil conservation\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**--the management of soil to limit its destruction (*Example—Dust Bowl) (*pg. 106)

* + \_\_\_crop rotation\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_--farmers plant different crops in a field each year
	+ \_\_\_contour plowing\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_--farmers plow their fields along the curves of a slope instead of straight rows. This helps prevent soil from washing away.
	+ \_\_\_\_conservation plowing\_\_\_\_--dead weeds and stalks from the previous year’s crop are plowed into the ground to return nutrients and help hold soil in place.

**Weathering:**\_\_\_the breaking down of rocks and minerals into smaller pieces\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 1. \_\_\_chemical weathering\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-process that breaks down rock through chemical

 changes. (Examples—acid rain, oxidation)

 2. \_\_\_mechanical weathering\_\_\_\_\_\_-process in which rock is physically broken into smaller

 pieces. (Examples- water, wind, ice, plants)

**4 Factors That Affect Weathering:** (pg. 158)

 1. Type of rock

 2. Climate

 3. Topography

 4. Plants and Animals