

Interested in learning more?

You can learn more with these fun extension activities!

Scan the QR code to play a fun game while learning more about soils!



Take a closer look at soils by watching this video:



**COMING
NEXT
WEEK!**

How soil is formed by the weathering of rocks.



For more information about Project VICTORY visit:



TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY
College of Education and
Human Development

Project VICTORY



GEOLOGY EXPLORERS

Family Involvement in Science

Soil Formation

FIELD NOTEBOOK #1

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Dear Family,



We are glad you are participating in Geology Explorers. We hope you enjoy these **Family Involvement in Science (FIS)** activities with your child and family. Please try to work through the activities in the next week.

This week's topic:

Your child is exploring soil, how it is made, and why it is important. We are learning science vocabulary that geologists use when describing soil.

Find ways to use these words in everyday conversations. This will help to build your child's science vocabulary.

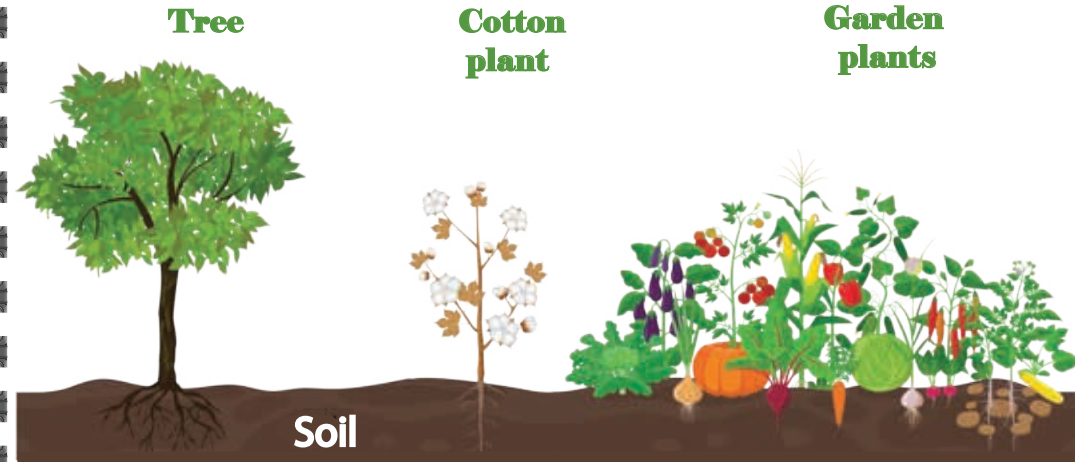
Did you know?

Soil is sometimes called **the skin of the Earth.**

Why is soil important?

Without soil we would not be able to grow plants. Plant products are important to us in many ways. We use plants for food, clothes, medicine, and materials we use to build.

Look at the figure below:



Activity

Sort the plant products. Write each word under the plant it came from.

- clothing
- food
- medicine
- furniture
- pencils
- wood
- thread

Tree	Cotton plant	Garden plants

Family Science Activity

This week's family challenge is to explore soil.

Materials:

 Soil sample from where you live

 Hand lens

What to do?

1. Collect a soil sample from where you live.
2. Explore your soil sample using the hand lens.
3. Illustrate and label what you observe in the box below.



Target vocabulary



Soil is a thin layer of material that covers the surface of the Earth.

Rock is a natural, solid material found on the surface of the Earth.



To **decompose** is to break down, decay, or rot.

The Importance of Soil



What is Soil?

Soil is all around us. **Soil** is a thin layer of material that covers the Earth's surface. It can be found all around the world. Soil is more than just dirt. Soil is made up of many different materials.

Soil is made of tiny particles from the remains of dead plants and animals. Soil is also made up of air, water, and small pieces of rock. **Rock** is a solid material that is found on the Earth's surface. Rocks form when two or more minerals combine together. Some examples of minerals are iron and salt.

Why is Soil Important?

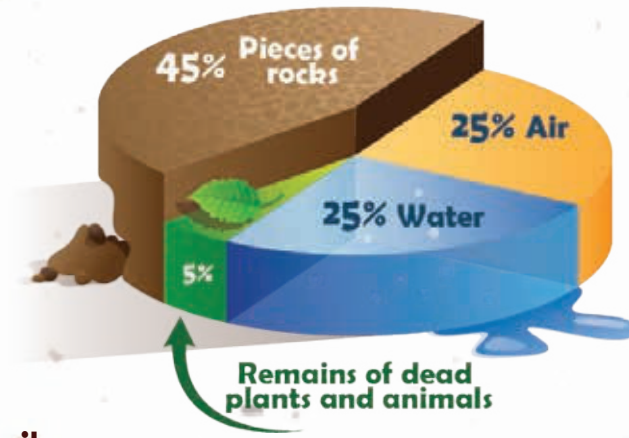
Soil helps plants grow. The roots of a plant soak up water and minerals from soil. Without soil we would not be able to grow plants. We use plants for food, clothes, medicine, and materials we use to build. Humans need plants to survive.

Soil is also home for many living things. Insects, earthworms, mushrooms, and mold live in soil. These living things help **decompose**, or break down the remains of dead plants and animals. After a long time, the remains become part of the soil. The remains add more minerals and nutrients into the soil. Soil is important for the survival of both plants and animals.



What is soil made of?

Look at the graph below.



Activity:

Answer the questions below. Use the graph to answer the questions.

1. What is soil mostly made of?

2. What percentage of soil is remains of dead plants and animals?

3. Compare the amount of air and water in soil.

