

VIDYA BHAWAN BALIKA VIDYAPEETH

STUDY MATERIAL SCIENCE CLASS-VII

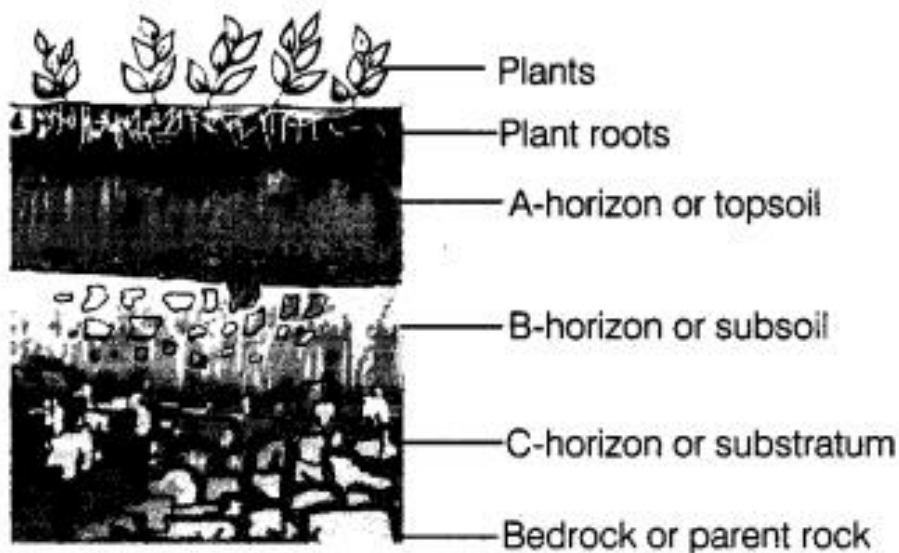
Date : 29-07-2021

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▸ Soil

1. A-Horizon or Topsoil

It is the uppermost layer of soil and is usually dark in colour because of the presence of minerals and humus in it. It provides the nutrients in plants since the roots of most plants are confined to this layer. Humus is the dark brown coloured layer which consists of dead, rotting remains of plants and animals.



Soil profile

Humus helps in making the topsoil porous. This layer is generally soft and retains more water in it. This layer provides shelter for many living organisms like earthworm, rodents, moles and beetles.

2. B-Horizon or Subsoil

This layer of soil lies just below the topsoil. It is made up of slightly bigger rock particles than that of the topsoil. It does not have much humus and is lighter in colour than topsoil. It is somewhat harder and more compact than the topsoil. This layer is less fertile than topsoil and contains few living organisms. The subsoil is rich in minerals and iron oxides.

3. C-Horizon or Substratum

The layer of soil which lies just below the subsoil is called C-horizon. It consists of small pieces of broken rocks with cracks and crevices, formed by the weathering of bedrock or parent rock.

4. Bedrock or Parent Rock

Below the C-horizon unweathered solid rock is found which is called as bedrock. It is non-porous and can produce the soil over a long period of time. Rainwater gets collected over it to form the water table.

This layer is hard enough and is difficult to dig with a spade.

Properties of Soil

Soil possesses various properties like:

- It contains air.
- It can hold water or moisture.
- It can absorb or soak water
- It allows water to pass down through it.