Name: Date: Score: / 8

Soil Formation: Learn and Practice

How rock and living things become soil.

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

💡 Soil

- Soil forms when rock is weathered and mixed with humus from dead plants and animals.
- Soil builds up in layers called horizons.
- It can take hundreds of years to form just 1 centimeter of soil.
- topsoil, then subsoil, then bedrock at the bottom

1 🍄 Which living things break down dead matter in soil?

A. Sharks

B. Decomposers like fungi and bacteria

C. Eagles D. Cacti

2 Which soil layer is on top?

A. Bedrock B. Subsoil C. Mantle D. Topsoil

3 What is humus?

A. Decayed plant and animal matter

B. A type of rock C. Tiny pebbles D. Pure sand

4 Why is topsoil usually darker than subsoil?

A. It is always wet B. It is older

C. It has more humus D. It has more rock

5 Which soil particle is the largest?

A. Silt B. Dust C. Clay D. Sand

6 What breaks rock into small pieces to start forming soil?

A. Melting B. Magnetism C. Photosynthesis

D. Weathering

7 What is bedrock?

A. Solid rock beneath the soil

B. Loose leaves on top C. A bed for plants

D. Dark humus

8 🪱 How do earthworms help soil?

A. They eat all nutrients

B. They turn soil into rock

C. They mix soil and make air spaces

D. They make soil hard

✏️ Explain it! Write two facts you learned about soil formation.

ANSWER KEY

Soil Formation: Learn and Practice (answers)

How rock and living things become soil.

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

1 🍄 Which living things break down dead matter in soil?

A. Sharks

B. Decomposers like fungi and bacteria

C. Eagles D. Cacti

Decomposers feed on dead plants and animals and turn them into humus and nutrients.

2 Which soil layer is on top?

A. Bedrock B. Subsoil C. Mantle **D. Topsoil**

Topsoil is the upper layer where most roots, worms and humus are found.

3 What is humus?

A. Decayed plant and animal matter

B. A type of rock C. Tiny pebbles D. Pure sand

Humus is the dark, rich material left when dead plants and animals break down. It feeds plants.

4 Why is topsoil usually darker than subsoil?

A. It is always wet B. It is older

C. It has more humus D. It has more rock

Topsoil holds lots of decayed plant and animal matter, which gives it a dark color.

5 Which soil particle is the largest?

A. Silt B. Dust C. Clay **D. Sand**

Sand grains are largest, silt is medium, and clay particles are so tiny you need a microscope.

6 What breaks rock into small pieces to start forming soil?

A. Melting B. Magnetism C. Photosynthesis

D. Weathering

Water, ice, wind, plants and chemicals slowly break rock apart. This is weathering.

7 What is bedrock?

A. Solid rock beneath the soil

B. Loose leaves on top C. A bed for plants

D. Dark humus

Bedrock is the solid rock under the soil layers. Over time it weathers to make new soil.

8 🪱 How do earthworms help soil?

A. They eat all nutrients

B. They turn soil into rock

C. They mix soil and make air spaces

D. They make soil hard

Worm tunnels let air and water in, and their droppings add nutrients. Worms are soil helpers!