**Soil Horizons**

A typical soil profile has a number of distinct layers called horizons.

Cut and paste the statements below and match to the correct horizon. Arrange the statements so that they are in the correct order from top to bottom.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Horizon | Statement |
| O | Organic matter: A thin layer of decomposing matter, humus and material that has not started to decompose, such as leaf litter. |
| A | Topsoil: The upper layer of soil, nearest the surface. Rich in nutrients to support plant growth and usually dark in colour. Most plant roots and soil organisms are found in this horizon which will also contain some minerals. A constant supply of decomposing organic matter is needed to maintain soil fertility. |
| B | Subsoil: Plant litter not present, little humus is present. Nutrients leached from horizon A accumulate in this layer which will be lighter in colour. Will contain more minerals then the horizon above. |
| C | Parent Material: Underlying layer of partly weathered rock |
| R | Bedrock: Weathered rock that hasn’t broken down enough to be soil. Nutrients leached from Horizon A are found in this layer. It will have a high mineral content. |