

# Mineral riches in the soil

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# Give the heading

- Soil is an important resource that decides the diversity of an area.
- The outermost layer of our earth is called crust and the minerals found in this layer supply a variety of nutrients to life forms.
- Over long periods of time ,thousands and millions of years the rocks at or near the surface of the earth are broken down by various physical, chemical and biological process. The end product of these is the fine particles of soil.

# Factors or process that make soil

- The sun – the sun heats the rock in the day causing it to expand but at night they cool down and start to contract. Since all the parts of the rock does not contract and expand at the same rate thus forming cracks and huge rock are broken into smaller pieces.
- Water- water helps in the formation of soil in 2 ways. One ,the water could get into the crack of the rock and if the water freezes then the cracks will widen. Two, flowing water wears away ,the even hard rocks over time.
- Wind – strong winds erode rock down by rubbing the rock against the speed of the wind .the wind also carries sand from one place to other.
- Living organisms- lichens which grow on the surface of the rocks, they release a certain substance the cause the rock surface to powder down. The roots of the big trees sometimes go deep into the cracks of rocks as the root grows bigger the crack becomes bigger.

# Give the heading

Soil is a mixture that contains small particles of rock ,bits of decayed organisms (humus) and contains various forms of microscopic life. the type of soil is decided by the size , quality, amount of humus etc. humus causes the soil to become more porous and allows water and air to penetrate deep underground. The mineral nutrients that are found in particular soil depends on the rocks it was formed. the layer which contains humus and living organisms in addition to the soil particles is called the topsoil. The quality of the topsoil is an important factor that decides the biodiversity in that area.

# Give the heading

Modern farming methods involve the use of large amounts of fertilizers and pesticides. Use of these substance over long period of time can destroy the soil by killing microorganisms that recycle nutrients in the soil, kills the earth worm which makes the rich humus. Fertile soil can be turned quickly into a barren waste land. These substances cause soil pollution.

The soil we see today in one place has been created over a long period of time .however ,some of the factors that created the soil in the first place and brought the soil to that place may be responsible for the removal of the soil too. The fine particles of soil may be carried away by flowing water or wind. If all soil gets washed away and the rocks underneath are left exposed, we have lost a valuable resource because very little will grow on the rock. The roots of the plant stop soil erosion. Large scale deforestation happening around the earth not only destroys the earth but also causes soil erosion .top soil that is bare of vegetation is likely to be removed very quickly. And Thise is accelerated in hilly or mountainous regions. The process of soil erosion is very hard reverse.