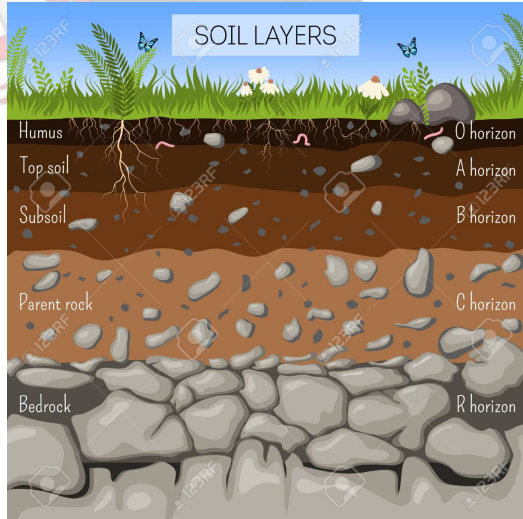


E2. Rocks

R o c k s

Hello young explorers! Today, we're going on a fascinating journey to uncover the mysteries of rocks in soil. Rocks are like tiny superheroes hidden beneath the surface, and they play a crucial role in creating healthy and nutrient-rich soil.



What are Rocks in Soil?

Rocks are hard and solid materials that form the backbone of soil. They come in different shapes, sizes, and colors, and you can find them everywhere around us. When we dig into the ground, we may not see the rocks right away because they are buried deep beneath the surface.

The Big Breakdown

Rocks may seem indestructible, but they slowly break down into smaller pieces over thousands of years. Wind, water, and other forces work like magical artists, sculpting the rocks into tiny particles. These tiny rock pieces mix with other soil components to create the soil we plant in.

Creating a Welcoming Home for Plants

As rocks break down into smaller pieces, they add texture and structure to the soil. This is like creating a cozy and welcoming home for plants! Plant roots love to explore and grow through the spaces between the tiny rock particles.

Helping Water Soak In

Rocks are helpful water guides in the soil. When it rains or when we water plants, the water flows through the gaps between the rocks. This allows the soil to soak up the water like a sponge, keeping it available for plants to drink.

A Balance of Sizes

Rocks come in different sizes, and each size plays a special role in soil. Larger rocks create pathways for water to move through the soil, while smaller rocks make the soil soft and fluffy, just like a cozy blanket.

The Magic of Minerals

Rocks are made of minerals, which are like tiny building blocks. Minerals add important nutrients to the soil that plants need to grow healthy and strong. So, rocks not only provide structure but also deliver vital nutrients for plants to thrive.

The Soil Cycle

The journey of rocks in soil is like a never-ending cycle. Rocks break down into smaller pieces, mix with other components, and then new plants grow in the soil. As plants and animals decay, they become part of the soil, helping new rocks form. It's a beautiful dance of nature!

1. What are rocks in soil?
 - A) Soft and fluffy soil particles
 - B) Hard and solid materials
 - C) Tiny building blocks
 - D) Cozy and welcoming home for plants
2. How do rocks help water soak into the soil?
 - A) They absorb water like a sponge
 - B) They create pathways for water to flow
 - C) They mix with other soil components
 - D) They grow into new plants
3. What do rocks break down into over time?
 - A) Sand particles
 - B) Water droplets
 - C) Smaller pieces
 - D) Minerals
4. What do minerals in rocks add to the soil?
 - A) Color to the soil
 - B) Nutrients for plants
 - C) A fluffy texture to the soil
 - D) A cozy blanket for plants
5. What are minerals in rocks like?
 - A) Tiny building blocks
 - B) Indestructible stones
 - C) Soft and fluffy particles
 - D) Buried deep beneath the surface
6. How do rocks add structure to the soil?
 - A) By creating pathways for water
 - B) By breaking down into smaller pieces
 - C) By absorbing water like a sponge
 - D) By providing spaces for plant roots to grow
7. What is the soil cycle?
 - A) The journey of rocks breaking down into smaller pieces
 - B) The dance of nature where rocks mix with other soil components
 - C) The process of water soaking into the soil
 - D) The continuous cycle of rocks, plants, and minerals in soil

8. What role do rocks play in creating soil structure?
- A) They absorb water like a sponge
 - B) They mix with other soil components
 - C) They create pathways for water to flow
 - D) They add texture and spaces for plant roots to grow
9. How do rocks in soil help plants grow?
- A) By providing a cozy and welcoming home for plant roots
 - B) By making the soil soft and fluffy
 - C) By adding color to the soil
 - D) By forming pathways for water to flow
10. How do rocks come in different sizes in soil?
- A) They change sizes during the soil cycle
 - B) They form pathways for water to flow
 - C) They are sculpted by wind and water
 - D) They create a cozy blanket for plants

ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

1. B) Hard and solid materials.
 - Rocks are hard and solid materials that form the backbone of soil.
2. B) They create pathways for water to flow.
 - Rocks help water soak into the soil by creating pathways for water to flow.
3. C) Smaller pieces.
 - Over time, rocks break down into smaller pieces in the soil.
4. B) Nutrients for plants.
 - Minerals in rocks add important nutrients to the soil that plants need to grow healthy and strong.
5. A) Tiny building blocks.
 - Minerals in rocks are like tiny building blocks.
6. D) By providing spaces for plant roots to grow.
 - Rocks add structure to the soil by providing spaces for plant roots to grow.
7. D) The continuous cycle of rocks, plants, and minerals in soil.
 - The soil cycle is the continuous cycle of rocks, plants, and minerals in soil.
8. D) They add texture and spaces for plant roots to grow.
 - Rocks play a role in creating soil structure by adding texture and spaces for plant roots to grow.
9. A) By providing a cozy and welcoming home for plant roots.
 - Rocks help plants grow by providing a cozy and welcoming home for plant roots to explore and grow through.
- 10.C) They are sculpted by wind and water.
 - Rocks come in different sizes in soil because they are sculpted by wind and water over time.