

# Soil Profile Diagram

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Block \_\_\_\_\_

## O Horizon: Organic material

Living things carry on life activities. Millions of dead plant and animal organisms are slowly decomposing. Takes from 100 to 600 years to form.

## A Horizon: Topsoil containing humus

Organic matter, roots, worms, insects, and other living organisms, small rock and mineral fragments. Dark in color.

## B Horizon: Subsoil

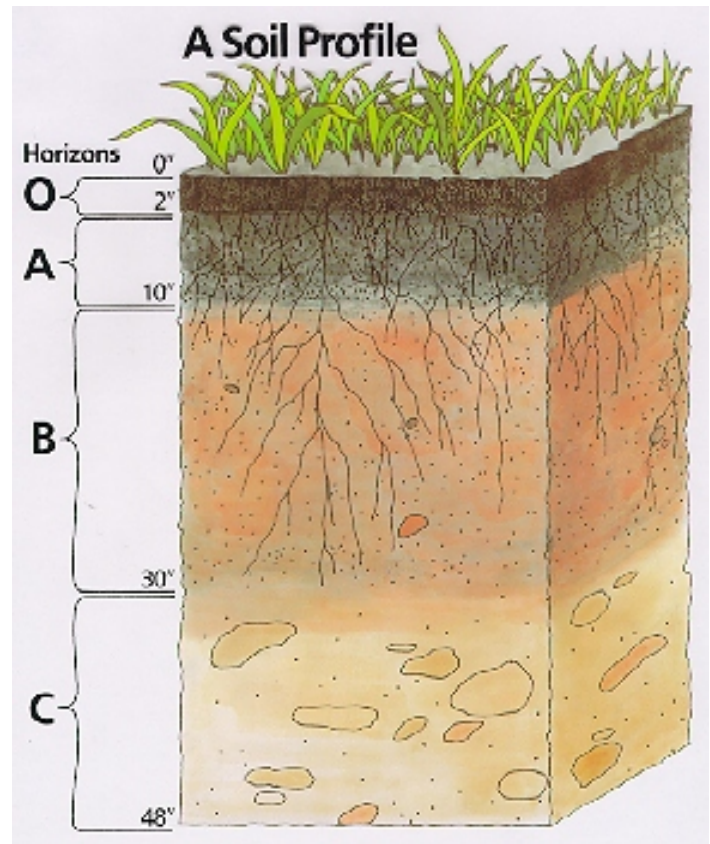
Some roots and other living organisms, materials leached by water from the A horizon, clay, rock fragments, minerals. Lighter in color than topsoil.

## C Horizon: Weathered Parent Rock

Materials leached by water from the B horizon, partly weathered rock fragments. Orangish, yellowish color.

## Solid Rock: Unweathered Parent Rock

Also called Parent Rock.



1. Which soil layer contains the most humus? (**Humus:** dark-colored organic material in the soil) \_\_\_\_\_
2. How far into the soil do plant roots extend? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Where in this soil profile are worms and insects breaking down organic matter into soil?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Where is this soil profile is solid rock being weathered? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the name of the process by which water carries material from the upper horizons down to the lower levels? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What factors in an area help determine the type of soil--the thickness of the layers and their composition? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Choose a factor you listed in #6 and explain (in a paragraph!) how it can affect the soil in an area. **Put your answer on the back. Use proper "Power Paragraph" form!**