

What is Soil?

Activity 2

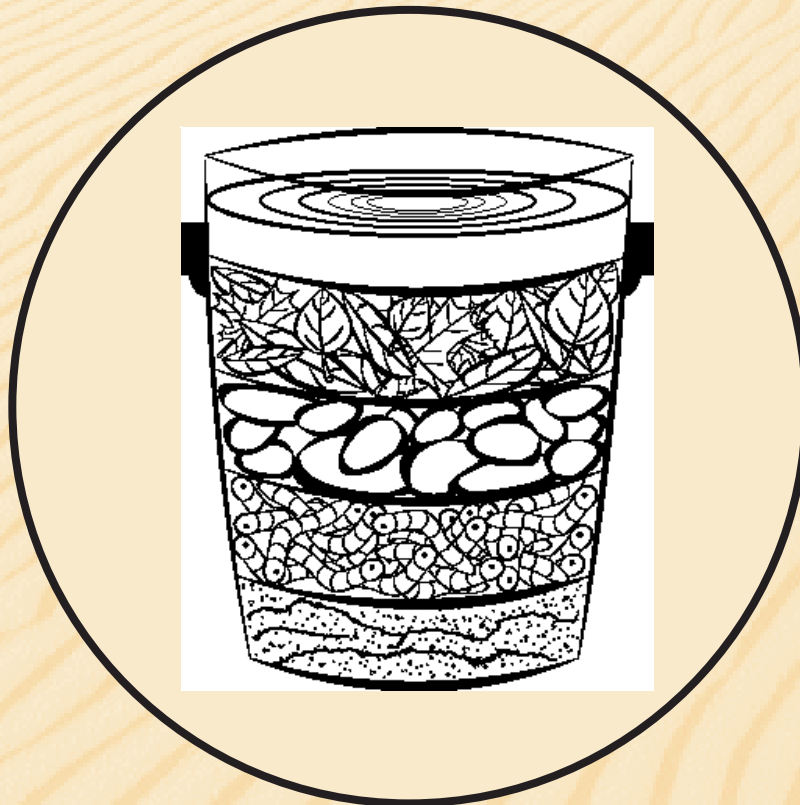
PURPOSE: To demonstrate the value of soil, and to show the extent of the problem created when soil is eroded or misused.

TIME: Approximately 45 minutes

materials: Bucket(s), magnifying glass, soil, containers for dissecting soil

METHOD: Give the students a bucket of soil to “dissect”. Have them separate parts of the soil and record what they find. Have them write a recipe for making fertile soil. The recipe should include: dead organic matter for nutrients, decomposers such as worms to put nutrients into the soil, rocks to provide minerals, water and air. Is there anything missing? The last ingredient is time. It takes 100 to 400 years to make one square centimetre of soil.

Daniel Kriesburg, *“Teaching About Hunger”*. Used with permission.



ENJOY THE
EARTH
GENTLY
FOR IF IT IS
SPOILED IT
CANNOT BE
REPAIRED

Yoruba poem,
Nigeria