

Chapter 2: Soils, Weathering, and Erosion

Study Guide

Vocabulary:

- Humus:** soil that is made up of broken-down pieces of dead plants and animals
- Sand:** soil with grains of rock that you can see with your eyes alone
- Silt:** soil with grains of rock that are too small to be seen with your eyes alone
- Clay:** soil with very tiny grains of rocks
- Loam:** soil that is a mixture of everything, humus, sand, silt, and clay
- Weathering:** the breaking down of rocks into smaller pieces
- Erosion:** the movement of weathered rocks and soil

Important Information:

- Sand has the largest grains and is the lightest in color.
- Humus is the darkest soil and is made up of dead plants and animals.
- Loam is the best for growing fruits and vegetables because it has everything plants need to survive.
- Clay has the smallest grains and clay is reddish in color.
- Silt is usually found in or by water like rivers and lakes.
- Sand holds the **least amount of water**.
- Clay holds the **most water**.
- There are 4 soil layers: **Topsoil, Subsoil, Bottom Layer, and Bedrock**.
- Topsoil has the most humus and is the darkest, richest layer.
- Subsoil has the most clay and holds the most water, it also has less humus than topsoil.
- Bottom layer has less water and humus than topsoil and subsoil, it also has broken pieces of rocks.
- Bedrock is solid rock at the bottom.
- Wind, water, and ice cause **weathering**.
- Wind, water, and ice can also move rocks and soil which is called **erosion**.