

Soils

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Glossary

clay (KLAY) the smallest sediment pieces that make up soil **(13)**

conservation (kon-sur-VAY-shuhn) the protection and wise use of a natural resource **(21)**

deposition (dep-uh-ZISH-uhn) the dropping of sediment in a new place by water, wind, ice, or gravity **(8)**

erosion (i-ROH-zhuhn) the movement of sediment by moving water, wind, moving ice, or gravity **(7)**

humus (HYOO-muhs) broken-down remains of plants and animals in soil **(4)**

nonrenewable resource (non-ri-NOO-uh-buhl REE-sors) a natural resource that cannot easily be replaced once it is used up **(20)**

pollution (puh-LOO-shuhn) the adding of harmful materials to soil, water, or air **(22)**

renewable resource (ri-NOO-uh-buhl REE-sors) a natural resource that can be replaced quickly or that cannot be used up **(20)**

rock (ROK) a solid, nonliving, natural material made of one or more minerals **(4)**

sand (SAND) the largest sediment pieces that make up soil **(13)**

sediment (SED-uh-muhnt) pieces of rocks and minerals that are made by weathering **(6)**

silt (SILT) sediment pieces in soil that are smaller than sand but larger than clay **(13)**

soil (SOIL) the mix of sediment, humus, air, and water that covers most of Earth's land surface **(4)**

soil horizon (SOIL huh-RYE-zuhn) a layer of soil **(12)**

weathering (WETH-uh-ring) the breaking down of rocks and minerals into smaller pieces by water, wind, temperature changes, and living things **(6)**

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