

Soils

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Glossary

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

conservation (kon-sur-VAY-shuhn) the protection and wise use of any of Earth's natural resources (21)

deposition (dep-uh-ZISH-uhn) the dropping of sediment in a new location 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) decomposed remains of plants and animals in soil (4)

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

pollution (puh-LOO-shuhn) the releasing of harmful substances to soil, water, or air (22)

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

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

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

sediment (SED-uh-muhnt) rock and mineral particles that are produced by weathering (6)

silt (SILT) medium-sized sediment particles in soil; smaller than sand but larger than clay (13)

soil (SOIL) the mixture of sediment, humus, air, and water that covers most of the land on Earth's 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)

