Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**“How Soils Form”**

1. What is soil?
2. Soil is made mainly of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Why do most living things depend on soil for their existence?

**“The Soil Profile”**

1. Another name for a soil layer is a soil \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Describe the 3 main soil horizons:

**A horizon**—humus-rich \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ where nutrient, organic matter and biological activity are highest (i.e. most plant roots, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and micro-organisms are active). The A horizon is usually \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in color than other horizons because of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ materials.

**B horizon**—\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-rich subsoil. This horizon is often \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ fertile than the topsoil but holds more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It generally has a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ color and less biological activity than the A horizon. Texture may be heavier than the A horizon too.

**C horizon**—underlying \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rock (from which the A and B horizons form).

Some soils also have an **O horizon** mainly consisting of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ which has accumulated on the soil surface.

**“Factors Affecting Soil Formation”**

1. How does soil form?
2. What is meant by the term “parent material”?
3. How is soil formation influenced by organisms?
4. How does climate affect soil formation?
5. Why are soils left on steep hillsides usually shallow?