

# The Soil Profile

**Surface Litter**  
leaves, branches,  
animal scats &  
bodies, mushrooms  
other rotting matter

**Topsoil Layer  
(or humus)**  
rotting organic  
matter from litter  
layer and  
minerals from  
weathering rocks

**Subsoil**  
crumbling rock,  
sand, clay, gravel  
and silt

**Parent  
Material**  
actual bedrock  
underlying the  
soil layers

