

Dig In!

People, plants, and animals all need soil.

What is soil? You might think of it as dirt or the top layer of the earth. It is much more than that. Soil is a natural resource. That means it is found in nature and is something that people use. In fact, soil is needed by almost all living things. Plants get nutrients from the soil to help them grow. Animals feed on plants that grow in the soil or they feed on other animals that eat plants. Some animals use soil for shelter.

Soil is made when rocks are worn down to very small pieces. Wind, water, and ice are some of the forces that wear rock into soil. This is not always a quick process. It takes years for soil to form. It takes more than 500 years to form just one inch of topsoil.

Soil comes in different colors. It can be yellow, red, brown, or black. Soil also has different textures. The United States is home to over 70,000 kinds of soil.



Write two facts about each heading.
Use the passage.

Plants and animals need soil.	Soil is made from rocks.
1. _____ _____	1. _____ _____
2. _____ _____	2. _____ _____

Bonus Box: How do people use soil? Write your answer in a complete sentence.