

Soil

Let's study the earth by learning about the part of it that we are most familiar with: the **soil**. Soil is found on the upper-most layer of the earth's crust.

How is soil formed?

Soil is formed in several ways. The break down, or **weathering**, of rocks is one way soil is formed. Water, wind and ice also help to create soil. Earth materials are carried by water, wind and ice, and are eventually dropped in places where they settle and mix with other materials to become soil. But the key ingredient to the making of soil is the living and once-living things that are found in it. These living and dead organisms are called **organic matter**. They turn the sand, silt, and rock pieces into a mixture that is perfect for helping plants and animals to live and grow.



*Did you know...
Tiny plants can break down big rocks!*

Comprehension: List 5 things that can break down rock into soil.
