

Sample Lesson #2

Types of Soil

The earth is covered in **soil**. There are different types of particles in soil. They include sand, silt, and clay. **Sand** is tiny grains of rock that you can easily see with your eye. **Silt** is like sand, but the grains of rock are so small that it is hard to see them with your eye. **Clay** particles are even tinier. You might even need a microscope to see the grains in clay. Soil also contains decaying plants and animals. This material is called **humus**. Humus adds nutrients to the soil and helps things to grow.



Most soil is a mixture of these ingredients—sand, silt, clay, and humus. A mixture of soil that contains a lot of sand and humus is called **loam**. It is good for growing fruits and vegetables. This is why most farms are built where the soil is loam.

1. _____ is the mixture of sand, silt, clay, and things that were once alive.
2. Which mixture of soil is usually found on farms?

silt clay sand loam



3. List four types of particles in soil.



4. Which of these is an example of a producer in a desert ecosystem?

roadrunner insect cactus ostrich

5. An animal that is hunted for food by other animals is called a _____.

predator vertebrate prey producer

6. Which is a **nonliving** part of an environment?

toad dandelion cloud dragonfly

7. Write T if the statement is true or F if it is false.

_____ Mimicry is imitating the look of another animal.

8. Herbivores eat _____.

9. Animals with a backbone are called _____.

