

WHAT IS

Soil?

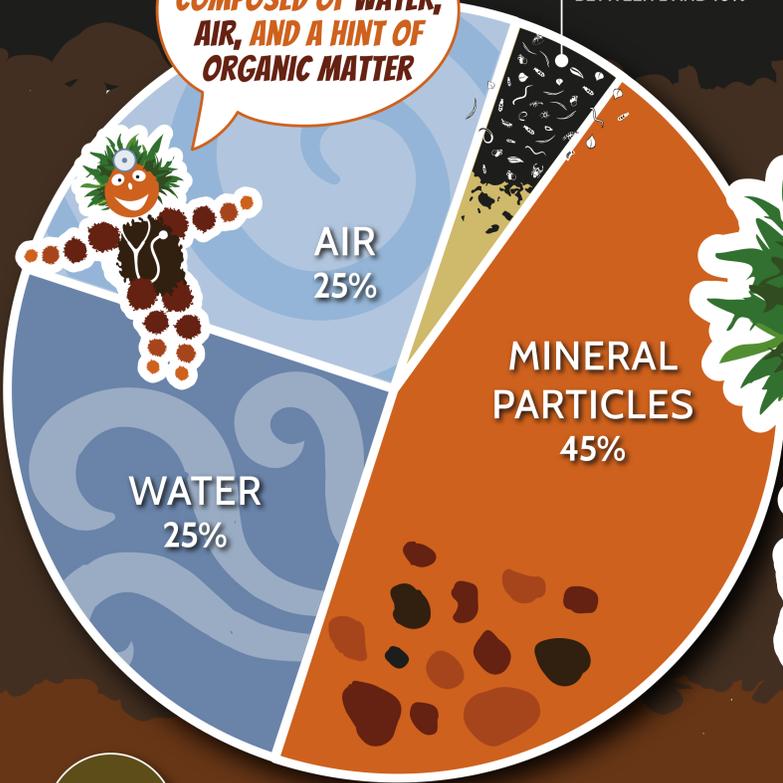
HI, MY NAME IS SOILY AND I AM THE SOIL DOCTOR'S ASSISTANT. I'M HERE TO TELL YOU A LITTLE BIT ABOUT SOIL.



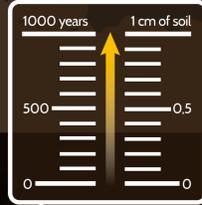
ORGANIC MATTER 5%

ORGANIC MATTER CONTENT IS HIGHLY VARIABLE, BUT MOST SOILS CONTAIN BETWEEN 2 AND 10%

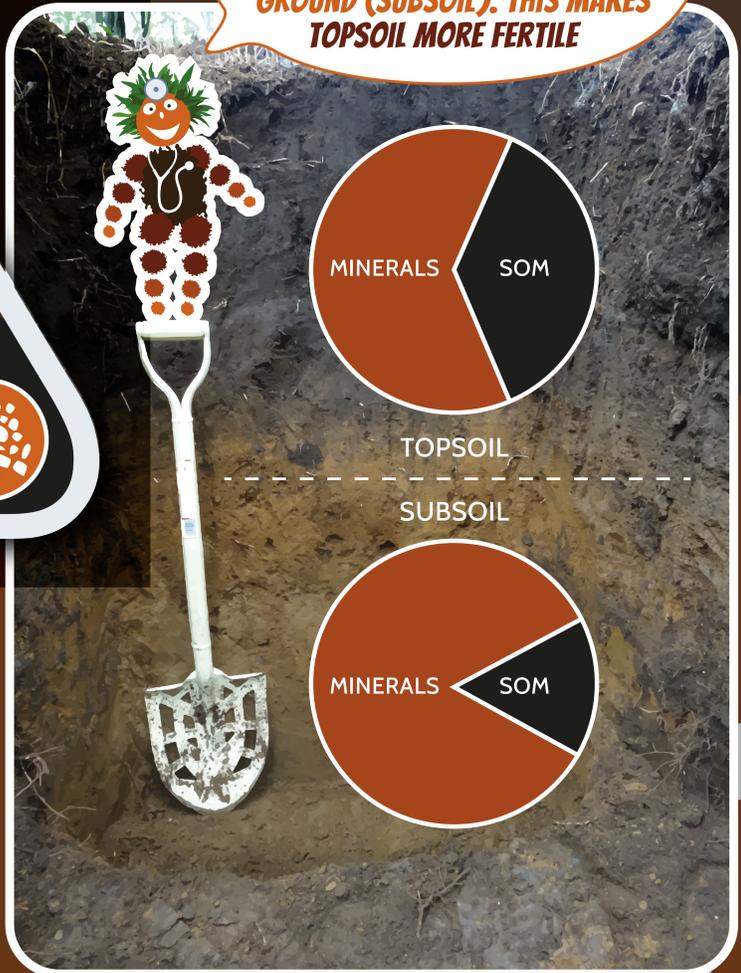
THE AVERAGE SOIL IS COMPOSED OF WATER, AIR, AND A HINT OF ORGANIC MATTER



THE 5 FACTORS OF SOIL FORMATION ARE: CLIMATE, ORGANISMS, TOPOGRAPHY, PARENT MATERIAL AND TIME!



USUALLY, SOIL ORGANIC MATTER (SOM) IS MUCH MORE ABUNDANT IN SURFACE SOIL (TOPSOIL) THAN FURTHER BELOW GROUND (SUBSOIL). THIS MAKES TOPSOIL MORE FERTILE



- CARBON SEQUESTRATION
- WATER PURIFICATION: ABSORPTION AND RETENTION OF POLLUTANTS
- FLOOD REGULATION
- NUTRIENT CYCLING
- HABITAT FOR ORGANISMS
- PROVISION OF FOOD, FIBRE AND FUEL
- FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN INFRASTRUCTURE
- SOURCE OF PHARMACEUTICALS AND GENETIC RESOURCES
- PROVISION OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS
- CLIMATE REGULATION
- CULTURAL HERITAGE

ALTHOUGH OFTEN UNDERVALUED, SOIL IS ACTUALLY CRITICAL FOR LIFE

SO WE NEED TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF SOIL, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT IS VULNERABLE TO DEGRADATION AND CAN DISAPPEAR IN SECONDS...



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