

Soil Horizons

Soil forms in layers called **horizons** (huh•RY•zuhnz). Each horizon has a different amount of rock and humus. A soil profile shows these horizons. In some places, the soil profile might look like the one on this page.

The A horizon is the layer of soil at the surface. It is also called topsoil. It is rich in humus and minerals. The B horizon is usually lighter and harder than topsoil. The C horizon is found below the B horizon. Underneath the C horizon is bedrock. The C horizon is made of weathered bedrock.

The rock and humus that make up soil are not the same in all places. That is why soil profiles are different from place to place.

A soil profile shows the layers in soil. ►

✓ Quick Check

7. What does a soil profile show?

8. Why are soil profiles different from place to place?

Soil Profile

