

What is soil, erosion, and weathering?

What do you know about soil?



Soil

- Sand and soil are made from particles (small parts or pieces). These particles can include small rock pieces, dead plants, dead animals, and in some cases pieces of shells (like in sand).
- Soils contains minerals that all living things need.
- The loose material in which plants can grow on Earth.
- There are three layers of soil: top soil (top), subsoil (middle) and bed-rock (lowest)

Types of Soil

Sand—tiny grains of loose worn rock that cover beaches at the edge of lakes and oceans. It has the largest rock pieces, comes in different colors, and water passes through easily.

Clay—smallest pieces of rock and holds the most water.

Silt—tiny particles that are left behind by rivers. The particles are larger than clay, but still smaller than sand. Silt holds a little water, and it feels very smooth.

Humus—found near earth's surface and has dead plants and dead animals in it

Loam—a mixture of humus, sand, silt, and clay minerals. It contains a lot of humus.

Differences in Soil

- Color
- Size of the rock pieces determines the texture
- How much water the soil can hold

Weathering vs. Erosion

- **Weathering** is the **breakdown** of rocks into smaller pieces.
- The causes of weathering are: temperature, water, wind, ice, rain, heat, pressure, and time.
- Weathering causes rocks in streams and rivers to become smooth because water is flowing over it for a long period of time.
- Weathering causes rocks to crack when water seeps down, freezes, and spreads them apart.

- **Erosion** is the **movement** of weathered rock and soil.
- The Grand Canyon was formed through erosion. It was caused by the Colorado River moving bits of the canyon away.
- Rivers drop sand and rock at their mouths. The sand and rock build up to form a delta. This is an example of erosion.
- A sand dune is created by wind moving the pieces of the sand into huge mounds.

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Back Page Story Headline



Caption describing picture or graphic.

This story can fit 175-225 words.

If your newsletter is folded and mailed, this story will appear on the back. So, it's a good idea to make it easy to read at a glance.

A question and answer format is a good way to quickly capture the attention of readers. You can either compile questions that you've received since the last edition of your newsletter, or you can summarize some generic questions that are frequently asked about buying or selling a home.

You can also use this space to remind readers to call you when they are thinking about buying or selling a home.

If space is available, this is a good place to insert a clip art image or some other graphic.

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