

# The Five Basic Layers of Soil

Soil is made up of different layers. Each layer is different from the other layers. The five basic layers of soil are:

## **ORGANIC LAYER:**

Also known as the **HUMUS LAYER**, the organic layer of the soil consists of twigs, leaves, and similar plant remains.

## **TOPSOIL:**

A relatively thin layer (~5-10 inches thickness), the topsoil is the layer where the organisms and plants thrive. Minerals and organic matter make up the topsoil.

## **SUBSOIL:**

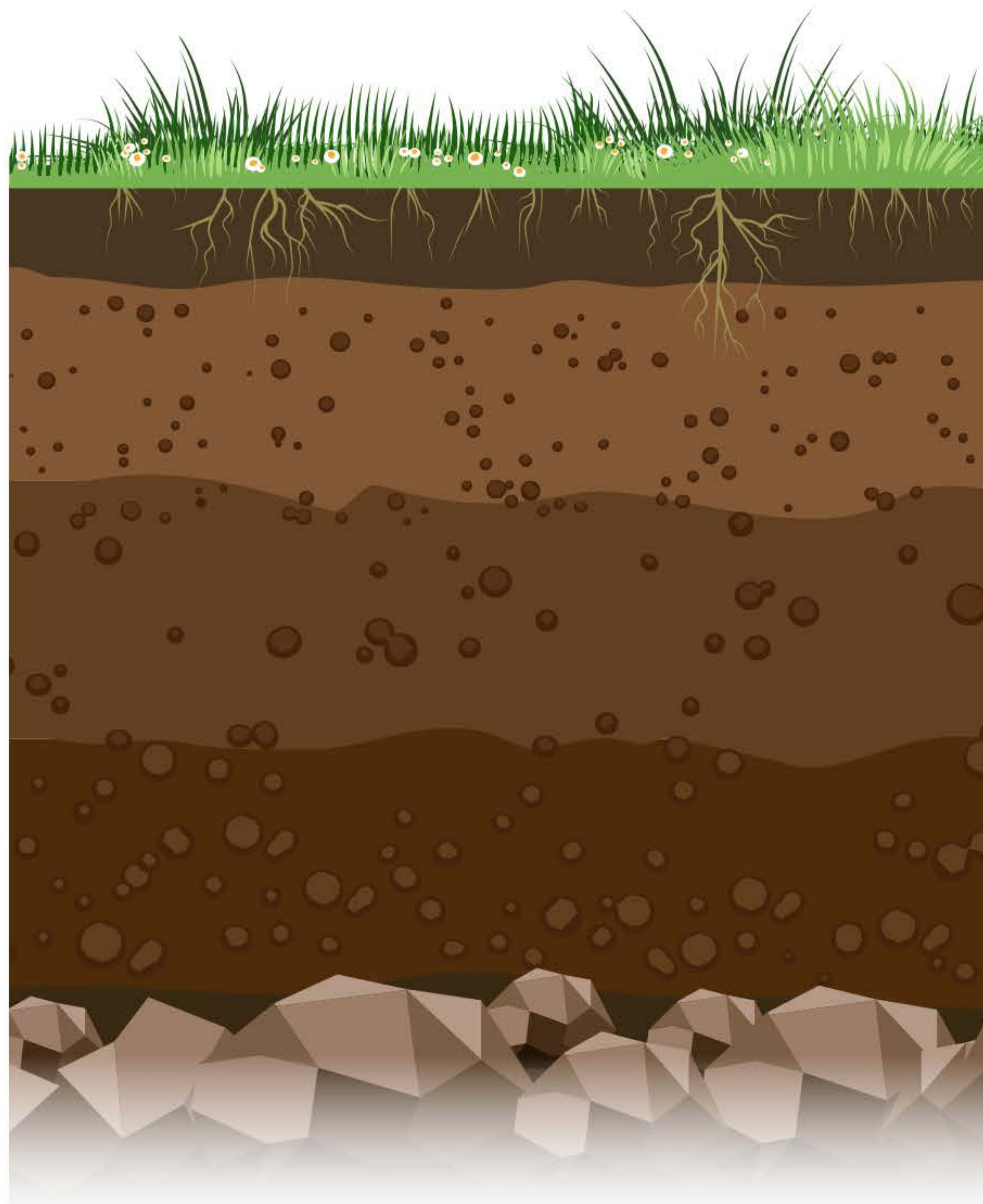
Below the topsoil lies the subsoil. The subsoil layer is mainly composed of iron, organic matter, and clay.

## **PARENTAL ROCK:**

It is from this layer that the other top layers of soil (organic layer, topsoil, and subsoil) develop. The parental rock layer is mainly composed of large rocks.

## **BEDROCK:**

The bedrock is the lowermost or the bottom layer of the soil. The bedrock is mainly composed of a huge solid mass of rock.



ORGANIC MATTER

SURFACE SOIL

SUBSOIL

PARENT ROCK

BEDROCK

**Label the different layers of soil in the diagram given below.**

