

## Multiple Choice: Factors of Soil Formation

**Directions:** Answer the multiple choice questions.

### Questions

1. The material from which soil develops is called the  
humus  
parent material  
original soil
2. Which factor is the most important during the very earliest soil forming process?  
biological activity  
topography  
parent material
3. Which area would have more developed soil than the others?  
desert  
forest  
polar area
4. Why do polar soils have very limited amounts of humus?  
limited bacterial activity and vegetation  
limited precipitation  
weathering cannot take place there
5. Topography describes the  
slope of the land  
soil depth  
degree of soil development in an area
6. All other factors the same, what type of land would have the most developed soil?  
steeply sloped  
moderately sloped  
flat
7. How do living things influence soil development?  
add nutrients to the soil  
break down organic matter  
both of the above
8. About how many microorganisms are usually in one handful of normal field soil?  
less than 100  
about 100 to 1000  
millions
9. As time progresses, most soils become  
deeper  
shallower

less weathered

10. On a worldwide basis, most soil characteristics are closely related to  
climate  
national boundaries  
closeness to water

### Answers

1. parent material

(The material from which a soil develops is called the parent material.)

2. parent material

(Parent material is the most important factor during the very earliest soil forming process.)

3. forest

(Forests would have more developed soil.)

4. limited bacterial activity and vegetation

(Polar soils have very limited amounts of humus because of limited vegetation and bacterial activity.)

5. slope of the land

(Topography describes the slope of the land.)

6. flat

(Flat land would have the most developed soil.)

7. both of the above

(Both of these factors influence soil development.)

8. millions

(Millions of microorganisms are usually in one handful of normal field soil.)

9. deeper

(As time progresses, most soils become deeper.)

10. climate

(On a worldwide basis, most soil characteristics are closely related to climate.)