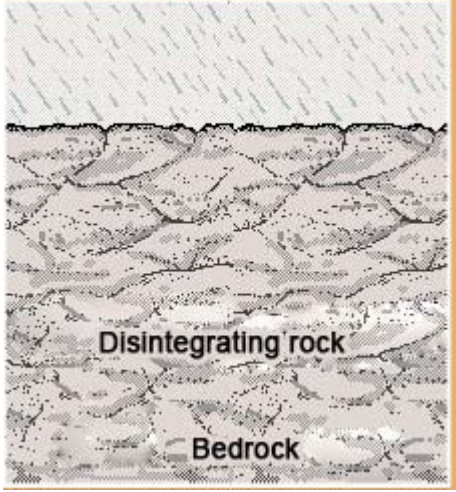
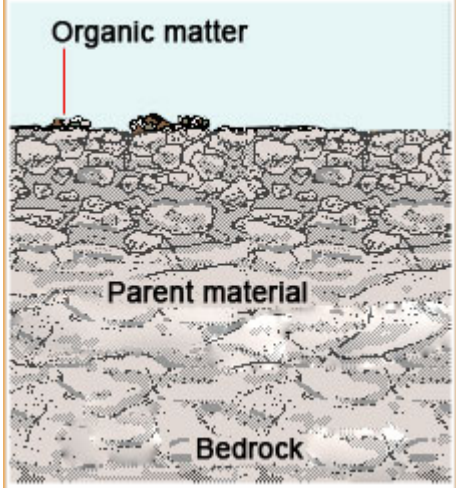
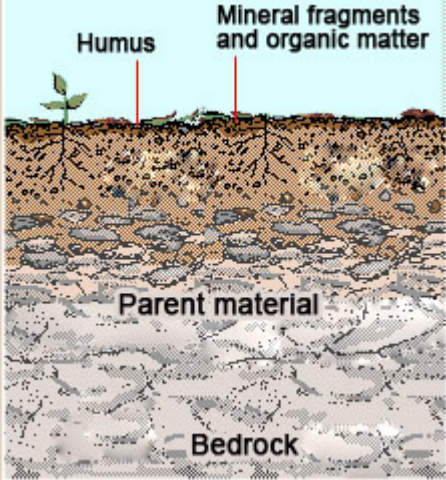
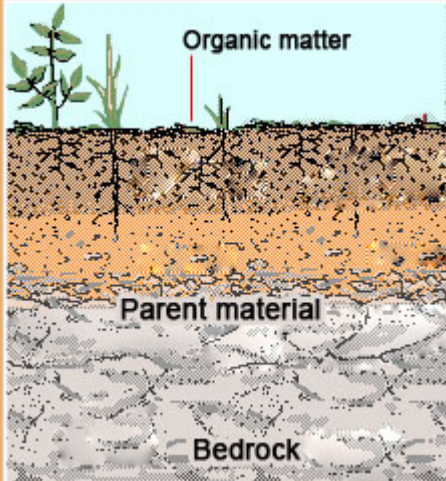


Example: Soil Formation

Directions: Read the information about each stage in the process below.

Stage	Explanation	Image
Stage 1 Bedrock	Rocks exposed to the surface are subject to the forces of weathering and begin to break down and disintegrate.	
Stage 2 Organic Disintegration	As the rocks break down, some small plants begin to colonize the area. They produce plant acids that further advance the weathering process. When the plants die, they add organic matter to the small rock particles. Slowly, a soil is forming over the bedrock. It is made of broken up rock and plant organic matter.	

<p>Stage 3 Horizons Form</p>	<p>With more time, the soil becomes deeper. Larger plants begin to grow, contributing to more weathering and adding more organic material to the soil.</p>	 <p>The diagram shows a cross-section of soil layers. At the top, a small green plant is shown. Below the surface, there are two distinct layers: a thin layer of dark brown soil labeled 'Humus' and a slightly thicker layer of lighter brown soil labeled 'Mineral fragments and organic matter'. Below these is a thick, light-colored layer labeled 'Parent material', and at the very bottom is a grey, crystalline layer labeled 'Bedrock'.</p>
<p>Stage 4 Developed Soil</p>	<p>At this stage, the soil has become even thicker and now supports a variety of plant life. The process will continue. The area will undergo more weathering, and the soil will become even deeper with time.</p>	 <p>The diagram shows a cross-section of soil layers. At the top, several plants of different heights are shown. Below the surface, there is a thick layer of dark brown soil labeled 'Organic matter'. Below this is a thick, light-colored layer labeled 'Parent material', and at the very bottom is a grey, crystalline layer labeled 'Bedrock'.</p>