

## Short Essay: The Uses of Soil

**Directions:** Write an answer to each of the questions below.

### Questions

1. List and describe three uses of soil as a natural resource.
2. You have learned about the soil properties that limit good agricultural production. Based on those limiting factors, describe the properties that would *encourage* good agricultural production.

### Answers

1. Soils provide the water, nutrients, and root support for our food and fiber crops. They provide habitat for the organisms that help decay and break down dead plant and animal materials. They also provide environmental services, such as filtering water, protecting the groundwater, lining landfills, and storing carbons.
2. Properties that would encourage good agricultural production are medium-texture (loam), moderate permeability, slow surface runoff, nearly level slope, and deep soils.