
*Student Name**Class***Section 3 – Soil is an important resource that human activity can protect or degrade****3.1 What Is Soil?**

1. Soil is a natural resource. The components of soil include organic matter and minerals. When soil contains partly decayed organic matter it is called ...
 - A. clay
 - B. sand
 - C. **humus**
 - D. vegetative

2. It has been raining for two weeks straight. There is too much moisture in the soil and the process of decomposition cannot take place. Organic matter does not decompose, but collects at the surface of the soil. The primary reason that decomposition of the organic matter cannot occur is because the soil lacks enough ...
 - A. **oxygen**
 - B. carbon dioxide
 - C. decomposers
 - D. heat

3. When moistened and then squeezed, this type of soil will stay together forming a tight ball ...
 - A. sand
 - B. **clay**
 - C. loam
 - D. sediment

4. This type of soil is dark brown or black and absorbs water very well.
 - A. clay
 - B. sand
 - C. **loam**
 - D. sediment

5. This type of soil has mostly minerals and does not retain moisture very well ...
 - A. clay
 - B. **sand**
 - C. loam
 - D. sediment

6. There are five factors that determine how soils develop. Which of the following is not one of those five factors? ...
 - A. parent material
 - B. climate
 - C. **soil type**
 - D. time

7. Good healthy soil contains soil-dwellers and decomposers. The four main types of decomposers are ...
 - A. **bacteria, fungi, earthworms, actinomytes**
 - B. crows, raccoons, hyenas, wolverines
 - C. earthworms, centipedes, bacteria, ants
 - D. magpies, crows, raccoons, mice

8. When earthworms are moving through the soil they eat it, grind it, digest it and mix it. Their mucus helps stick the particles together and their tunnels provide ...
 - A. **protection**
 - B. minerals
 - C. moisture
 - D. **air**

3.2 Our Practices Can Improve or Degrade Soil

1. Farmers need to make money when growing crops. Most farmers only grow one type of crop in a particular area. This type of farming is called ...
 - A. shelterbelts
 - B. mini-cropping
 - C. **monoculture**
 - D. single-cropping

2. On the Canadian Prairies during the 1930's, drought and poor farming methods caused a lot of the topsoil – that is necessary to good yield crops – to blow away. This period of Canadian history is often referred to as the ...
 - A. **Dirty thirties**
 - B. Roaring twenties
 - C. Great depression
 - D. Windy wastelands

3. Healthy high yield crops require large amounts of nutrients. All of these nutrients have specialized functions. Fertilizer usually contains three of the six nutrients, including ...
 - A. nitrogen, potassium, sulfur
 - B. phosphorus, calcium, calcium
 - C. **potassium, nitrogen, phosphorus**
 - D. magnesium, potassium, calcium

4. Sources of nitrogen used in fertilizer include ...
 - A. Ammonia and urine
 - B. **Urea and ammonia**
 - C. Chlorine and ammonia
 - D. Urea and urine

5. The practice of planting a particular type of crop in a field every year, to match the nutrients the soil has for this particular type of crop is called ...
 - A. monoculture
 - B. **crop rotation**
 - C. summer fallow
 - D. zero tillage

6. The practice of cultivating land to control weeds, without planting crops is called ...
 - A. fall tillage
 - B. **summer fallow**
 - C. spring irrigation
 - D. wintering crops

7. Many farming practices are used to save the soil from excess erosion. Planting trees or shrubs along the edges of field is one such practice. The purpose behind this is to ...
 - A. provide travel corridors for water
 - B. enhance crop rotation
 - C. plant the seeds through the stubble
 - D. **reduce wind damage and trap snow**

8. A plowing device that would go under the stubble left on the field, to kill the weed enabled farmers to benefit from the use of 'trash cover'. The blade was developed by C.S. Noble from Nobleford, Alberta and was called the ...
 - A. Nobleford Blade
 - B. **Noble Blade and Drill**
 - C. Trash Cover Blade
 - D. Stubble Plow Blade