

Learning & Discovery in the National Park
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learning.discovery@peakdistrict.gov.uk



What's so special about soils?????



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Why is soil important?



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PLANTS grow in soil. If there was no soil, there would be no plants and NO FOOD!!!

Why is soil important?



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Some soils hold a lot of WATER. If there was no soil, this water could flood towns and cities.

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Why is soil important?



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Why is soil important?

Some soils hold a lot of **CARBON** which stops **GLOBAL WARMING**.



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Soils are a **HABITAT** for many organisms – worms, insects and **bacteria**.

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What is soil made from?



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What is soil made from?



Carefully observe your soil and record what you see.

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Organic
material
(**humus**) :
Plants and
animals –
DEAD OR
ALIVE!

What is soil made from?



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Organic
material
(humus)
Plants and
animals –
DEAD OR
ALIVE!

What is soil made from?

Inorganic
(never
been alive)
material:
Rock
fragments,
water and
air.

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Is all soil the same?



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Is all soil the same?
(Time to get your hands dirty!)



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Clay soils can be very sticky when wet and very hard when dry.

Is all soil the same?



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Is all soil the same?

Sandy soils are light and low in nutrients.

Clay soils can be very sticky when wet and very hard when dry.

Is all soil the same?

Peat holds a lot of water and plant remains which contain **carbon**. They are very **acidic**.

Sandy soils are light and low in **nutrients**.

Chalky soil is low in nutrients and very **alkaline** – the opposite of acidic.

Clay soils can be very sticky when wet and very hard when dry.

Is all soil the same?

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Sandy soils are light and low in **nutrients**.



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Which types of soil do
you think you will find on
your Peak District visit?