



Level 1 Grades K-1st

Soil is Alive!



WE ALL
NEED
SOIL!!!





I Use Soils All Day Long!



HI!

My name is Casey and I use soils from the time I get up until I go to bed at night.

1

✓ The first thing I do when I get up is make my bed. My bed is made from **wood**. The wood comes from **trees** that grow in **soil**.



3

✓ Next, my friend Dino and I brush our teeth. The **water** we use to brush our teeth comes from a **well** deep in the **soil**.



2

✓ Breakfast is next on my list. I go to the kitchen and have a bowl of cereal with **milk** and a glass of **orange** juice. The cereal is made from **wheat** that grows in **soil**. The milk comes from a **cow** that lives in a **field** on **soil** and eats **grass** that grows in **soil**. The orange juice is squeezed from oranges that grow on trees in **soil**.



4

✓ Now it is time to get dressed for school. I like comfy **clothes** and so do my friends. Some of our clothes are made from **cotton**. It is very comfy! Cotton comes from a **plant** that grows in **soil**.



I have just told you about my morning and I have already used soil 4 times!

I like soil. Plants and trees grow in soil. My house is built on soil. The food I like to eat grows in and on soil. Soil helps filter and clean the water I drink. My comfy clothes come from a plant that grows in soil. I like worms and they live in soil!



What are some things you like about the soil?

Write them on the lines below:

Circle two pictures in each group

that go with the first one.





LIFE in the Soil



When you stand on soil you are standing on something that is alive. Just one teaspoon of soil is home to **THOUSANDS** or **MILLIONS** of living things. Some of the critters living in soil are big enough for you to see like ants, worms, beetles and grubs. Most of the creatures living in soil are too tiny to see.

Soil also has non-living parts like rocks, minerals, air, water and dead plant parts.

Circle the living things that can be found in soil.
Draw a square around the nonliving soil parts.



WE ALL NEED SOIL!

soil foods
animals play
plants

Put each word from the box in the puzzle.



Use a word from the box

to complete each sentence.

Trees and other _____
that grow in soil make the
air that we breathe.

Our houses are built

on _____

A lot of the _____
we eat, like carrots, grow in soil.

Many _____
like rabbits, have homes in soil.

We like to _____ in
playgrounds built on soil.



Eating **IN** or Eating **OUT**



Circle the fruits or vegetables that grow the parts that we eat **IN** the soil.



Trace the letters and read the sentences.

Soil can be **brown**.

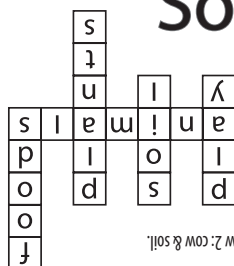
Soil can be **red**.

Soil can be **yellow**.

Soil can be **green**.

Soil can be **blue**.

Soil can be **white**.



ANSWER KEY
Pg2 Circle two pictures in each row that go with the first one: Row 1: tree & soil, Row 2: cow & soil.
Pg3: Trees and plants that grow in soil make the air that we breathe.
Many animals, like rabbits, have homes in soil.
A lot of the foods we eat, like carrots, grow in soil.
We like to play in playgrounds built on soil.
Pg4 Eating In or Eating Out: carrot, radish, sweet potato, onion

Ask Maxine

Question:

Where does soil come from?

Answer:

Soil doesn't have parents like we do, but it does have parent materials. Parent materials that help make soil are rocks and minerals that have been broken up into tiny pieces. Soils can be many different colors because they come from many different rocks and minerals.

Maxine worked for NACD for 47 years. That's why we always ask Maxine.



Keeping the Soil We Need

Taking good care of our soil is the best way to make sure that we have the soil we need for food, water, air, clothes and many other things. Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District to find out what **YOU** can do to help protect your soil.



National Association
of Conservation Districts (NACD)
www.nacdnet.org



www.soils.org

Special thanks to the NACD S&E Committee and reviewers
Contact: stewardship@nacdn.net
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Visit <http://www.nacdnet.org/general-resources/stewardship-and-education-materials/2019-life-in-the-soil-dig-deeper/>
and www.soils4teachers.org for additional education materials
Booklet designed for use with Grades K-1st
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