

# digging for words

Dig out the words that are hidden in this puzzle and then circle them. Words can run frontwards, backwards, up, down, or diagonally.

S R P Q P T I U R F C I G R F  
O E O E L L A J D B H M O L L  
F T P N T X A Q H F S O Q P O  
E A A A W A M N O B T C Z B W  
S W O X T M L O T S L R O I E  
R R Y D K J D O N S I Y Y P R  
S F K A B A S A L V O Q S H R  
E E C N J H H I F C S S H L T  
E L E Z Z E L Q J Q F D I N T  
D J P N A Y N C R D M F R Z R  
V I F L A H S A V G E S I O E  
D B T M A T K V T F F I A B E  
H H G M A E M N A K K Y A O S  
Y S Z M W B N I C J A E W B A  
F A E L Z B W P Q N P H B Z I

SOIL  
HEALTHY  
AIR  
WATER  
TREES

FOOD  
LIFE  
PLANTS  
FLOWER  
PETAL

FRUIT  
LEAF  
SEED  
ROOTS

## Ask Maxine

### Question:

What is soil erosion?

### Answer:

Take a look outside after it rains. Look at the water in rivers, in ponds, or running along the roads. The water may be clear or muddy. If it is muddy, soil is being washed away and mixing with the water. This is soil erosion. Soil is being carried away by rainwater. If you see soil erosion happening in your yard, try planting some plants or trees. Roots from plants and trees help hold soil in place, preventing erosion.

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



flower-cauliflower, leaf-spinach, fruit-tomato, root-carrot, seeds-corn.  
am 1? ROOT; A new plant can grow from me. What am I? SEED. Green Family Garden; stem-asparagus.  
I hold and protect the seeds. What am I? FRUIT; I collect water, minerals, and nutrients from soil. What  
the leaves. What am I? STEM; I use energy from the sun to make food for the plant. What am I? LEAF.  
Pg 5: Plant Parts I have petals and I make seeds. What am I? FLOWER; I carry water from the roots to

Pg 3: A Healthy Home for Erin MINERALS, WATER, LIVING THINGS, AIR, ORGANIC MATTER.

ANSWER KEY

S R P Q P T I U R F C I G R F  
O E O E L L A J D B H M O L L  
F T P N T X A Q H F S O Q P O  
E A A A W A M N O B T C Z B W  
S W O X T M L O T S L R O I E  
R R Y D K J D O N S I Y Y P R  
S F K A B A S A L V O Q S H R  
E E C N J H H I F C S S H L T  
E L E Z Z E L Q J Q F D I N T  
D J P N A Y N C R D M F R Z R  
V I F L A H S A V G E S I O E  
D B T M A T K V T F F I A B E  
H H G M A E M N A K K Y A O S  
Y S Z M W B N I C J A E W B A  
F A E L Z B W P Q N P H B Z I

Fig. 8: Digging For Words

Fig. 4: Healthy Soil Maze



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



www.soils.org

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and [www.soils4teachers.org](http://www.soils4teachers.org) for additional education materials

Booklet designed for use with Grades 2-3





Level 2 Grades 2 - 3



I'm a  
Soil Hero!

HEALTHY SOIL =  
HEALTHY PLANTS =  
HEALTHY FOOD =  
Healthy you





# A Comfy Home for erin

What do you think makes a home comfy?

Write three things that you think make a home comfy.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

## 5 Senses

Sight



Smell



Touch



Taste



Hearing



We find things comfy because they please our **senses**.

There are five senses: **sight**, **hearing**, **smell**, **taste** and **touch**.

Draw a line from each thing you wrote to the sense that it pleases.

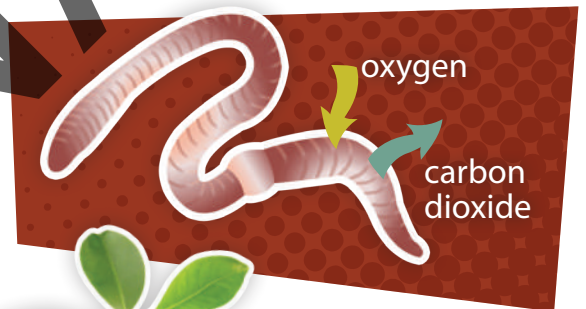
**Erin the Earthworm is looking for a comfy home.**

Erin lives in the soil and has some senses to please like we do. Earthworms do not have eyes, ears, or a nose, but they do have nerve endings. They can tell whether they are in the dark or the light. Since they have a sense of touch, they can feel things moving around them.

Earthworms may not have a nose, but they still have to breathe! They breathe in **oxygen** and breathe out **carbon dioxide** just like we do, but they breathe through their skin.

oxygen

carbon dioxide



There are hollow spaces in soil that hold air. This air is needed by the organisms living in the soil.

What a breath of fresh air!



Plants must have water from the soil to live. We must have plants to live!





Earthworms make their homes **IN** the soil. We build our homes **ON** the soil. What else do we build on soil? List six places that you go to every week that are built on soil.



Thousands of living organisms can be found in one square inch of soil!



Erin the Earthworm is just one of **millions** of living things that dwell in the **soil** under our feet! Have you ever picked up a rock that was lying on soil and looked under it? You might have seen spiders, beetles, centipedes, millipedes, and pill bugs scurry away. Most of the living things in soil are so tiny you cannot see them. Soil is full of **life** that you **can** and **cannot** see. **Healthy soil is important to the life in it and our life on it!**

## A Healthy Home for erin

Solve the addition and subtraction problems below. Then use the code to match the answers with the letters. Write the letters on the lines below to find out what can be found in healthy soil.

6 10 16 15 19 20 11 14

7 20 3 15 19

11 10 17 10 16 8

3 5 10 16 8 14

20 10 19

18 19 8 20 16 10 4

6 20 3 3 15 19

18 - 3 = \_\_\_\_ = **E**    7 + 3 = \_\_\_\_ = **I**    20 - 6 = \_\_\_\_ = **S**

10 + 8 = \_\_\_\_ = **O**    10 - 7 = \_\_\_\_ = **T**    15 + 4 = \_\_\_\_ = **R**

11 - 3 = \_\_\_\_ = **G**    11 + 9 = \_\_\_\_ = **A**    13 - 9 = \_\_\_\_ = **C**

12 + 4 = \_\_\_\_ = **N**    14 - 8 = \_\_\_\_ = **M**    10 + 1 = \_\_\_\_ = **L**

12 - 5 = \_\_\_\_ = **W**    9 + 8 = \_\_\_\_ = **V**    13 - 8 = \_\_\_\_ = **H**

There are many minerals found in the soil (such as calcium) that humans, animals and plants must have to be healthy.



Healthy soil is full of living things like plant roots, insects, worms and organisms so small you cannot see them.



Organic matter is decaying plant or animal material that makes soil very healthy for all the organisms living in it.

