

1. **Soil** - mixture of bits of rock and bits of once-living parts of plants and animals
2. **Soil horizon** - a layer of soil
3. **Humus** - the part of soil that is made of decayed parts of plants and animals, contains nutrients that feed plants, soaks up and holds water more easily than bits of rock
4. **Topsoil** - the dark, top layer of soil, rich in humus and minerals, in which organisms live and most plants grow
5. **Pollution** - the addition of harmful materials to the soil, air, or water
6. **Conservation** - saving, protecting, or using natural resources wisely

Summary:

- Soil is a mixture of bits of rocks and once living parts of plants and animals
- Soil supports plant and animal life and can be polluted
- Soil can be conserved in many ways