SOIL SCRIPT

**Top soil**-Layer made of silt, clay and other tiny pieces of rock produced by weathering. **Viruses, bacteria, protists and fungi** live within the water and soil molecules. Topsoil usually contains nutrient rich **humus**, which **organisms feed on**. Most plants grow in topsoil. Animals are agents of **weathering**. They loosen and mix topsoil allowing air and water to filter down to lower soil layers. When dead plants and animals decay, they produce **acids** that cause weathering.

**Subsoil**-2nd lighter colored soil layer because it has little humus, which darkens topsoil. Subsoil contains minerals washed out of topsoil by rain and melting snow. Contains larger pieces of weathered rock with some roots in search of deep water.

**Substratum**-larger pieces of rock worn down by weathering to form new subsoil. Also known as **bedrock**.