

Name_____ Date_____ Section_____

Earth Science Unit 1 Earth's Surface

Title: Activity 4 Soil Formation

Challenge Question: How does soil form?

Background: *What are some properties scientists use to describe soil?*

Materials:

The Dynamic Earth book

Vocabulary: Define the following terms in your own words.

Term	Definition	Picture or Example
soil		
humus		
soil profile		
soil horizon		
texture		
color		
consistence		

Procedures:

1. Read pages 56 - 65 in the *Dynamic Earth* book.
2. Do Lesson Review on page 67, questions 1 - 11.
3. Make a drawing that shows the main soil horizons and indicate the composition of each horizon.
4. Create definitions for the Vocabulary. Answer Analysis Questions.

Data/Results: *(Write your responses to the Lesson Review on a separate sheet of paper.)*

Analysis Questions:

1. What are the main ingredients of soil? How do activities of organisms affect soil?

2. Which soil is better for crops, soil with or without a lot of worms? Explain.

3. Visualize a line graph that shows the amount of organic matter in samples of soil taken from soil layers at different depths in a soil sequence. The graph would show how much organic matter was present at different depths. What would the graph look like, and what would it show?

4. Soil particles are classified as sand, silt, or clay. Arrange the particles in order of increasing size.

5. Which would you expect to be more fertile, the soil on a steep slope or the soil on a plain? Why?

6. Describe the five properties of soil.
