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Reading Guide: Soil

- 1) Describe soil.
- 2) What are the four main components of soil? Create a pie chart to represent the components and each percentage. (Similar to the book)

- 3) Describe each mineral component of soil (largest? Smallest? Water retention? Etc...)

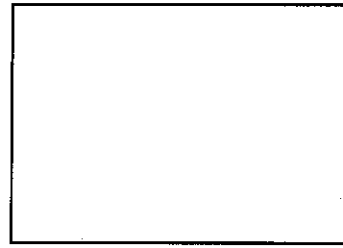
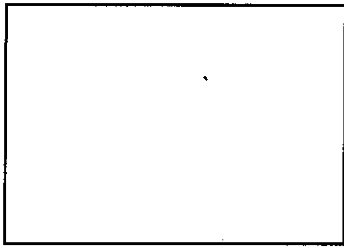
Gravel Sand Silt Clay

- 4) Describe the components of loam. Why is loam good for growing plants?
- 5) What is organic matter?
- 6) What happens when a plant or animal dies in soil? How does that benefit soil?
- 7) Describe humus.
- 8) Where are the air and water in soil found?
- 9) About how long does it take for soil to form? _____
- 10) What is parent material and in what 2 ways does parent material affect soil formation?
- 11) Why is soil on a sloping mountain side thinner than soil on broad, flat areas?
- 12) Name the 5 factors that affect soil formation then explain each one's role in soil formation.

5 Factors that affect soil Formation:

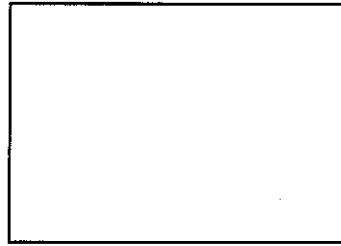
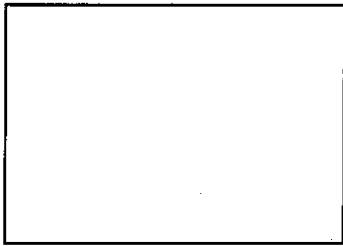
1) _____

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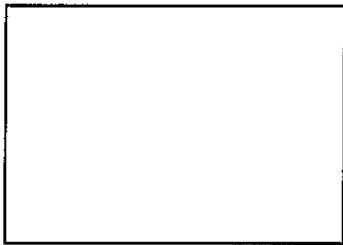
2) _____

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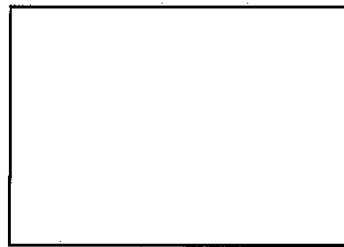
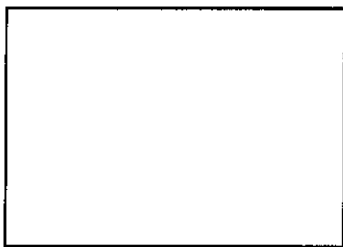
3) _____

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4) _____

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5) _____