

Name: _____

Date: _____

Soil Vocabulary Crossword Puzzle

Across

3. Verical section of soil layers, each of which is a horizon
6. Average weather pattern in an area over a long period of time; can be classified by temperature, humidity, precipitation and vegetation
9. Mechanical or chemical surface processes that break rock into smaller and smaller pieces
10. Dark colored decayed organic matter that supplies nutrients to plants and is found mainly in top soil
12. Chemical weathering process that occurs when some minerals are exposed to oxygen and water over time
14. Farming method used to reduce erosion on steep slopes
15. Occurs when chemical reactions dissolve the minerals in rock or change them into different minerals

Down

1. Physical processes that break rock apart without changing its' chemical makeup; can be caused by ice wedging animals and plant groups
2. Method for reducing soil erosion; plant stalks are left in the field after harvesting and the next year's crop is planted within the stalks without plowing
4. Planting along the natural contours of the land to reduce soil erosion
5. Mechanical weathering processes that occurs when water freezes in the cracks of rocks and expands causing the rock to break apart
7. Each layer in the soil profile hoizon A (top layer of soil) horizon B (middle layer) and horizon C (bottom layer)
8. Twigs, leaves and other organic matter that help prevent erosion and hold water and may eventually be changed into humus by decomposing organisms
11. Mixture of weathered rock and mineral fragments, decayed organic matter, mineral fragments, water, and air that can take thousands of years to develop
13. Removal of minerals that have been dissolved in water

