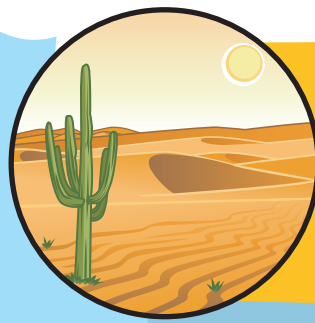




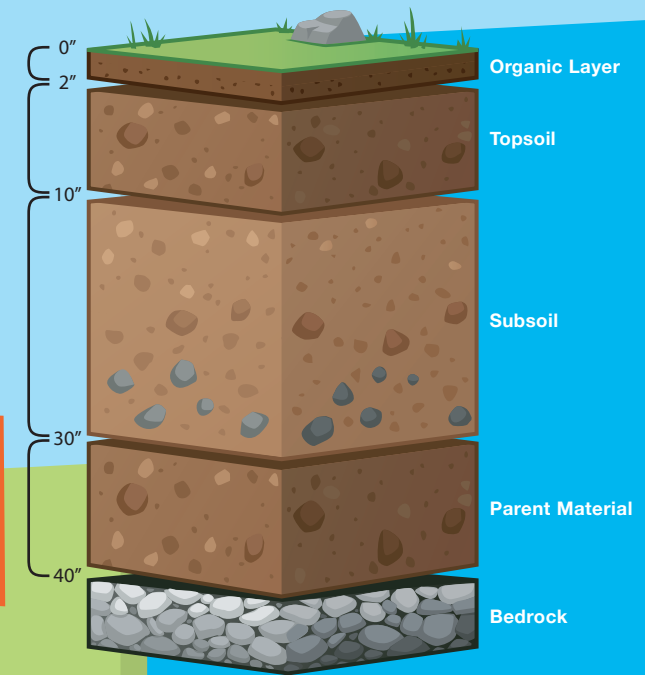
We rely on soils for food.

In fact, 95% of food production relies on soil!



Soils may seem sterile but they are actually teeming with life!

A teaspoon of soil can actually contain more microorganisms than there are people on Earth.



Healthy soils are like a filter!

They can help to clean the water that we depend on to survive.

A quarter of the Earth's species are found in soils!

This includes critters like small mammals, worms, fungi, and bacteria. Scientists are still learning about and discovering organisms that live in soil!

Over 1,000,000 earthworms can be found in one acre of cropland!



There is more than one type of soil!

Soil is made of layers, and soil scientists call these layers horizons. These include organic material, like decaying leaves, the topsoil, the eluviated horizon, the subsoil, parent material, and bedrock.

Healthy soils can help the environment!

Soil that's in good shape can prevent floods and mitigate drought because they store water.



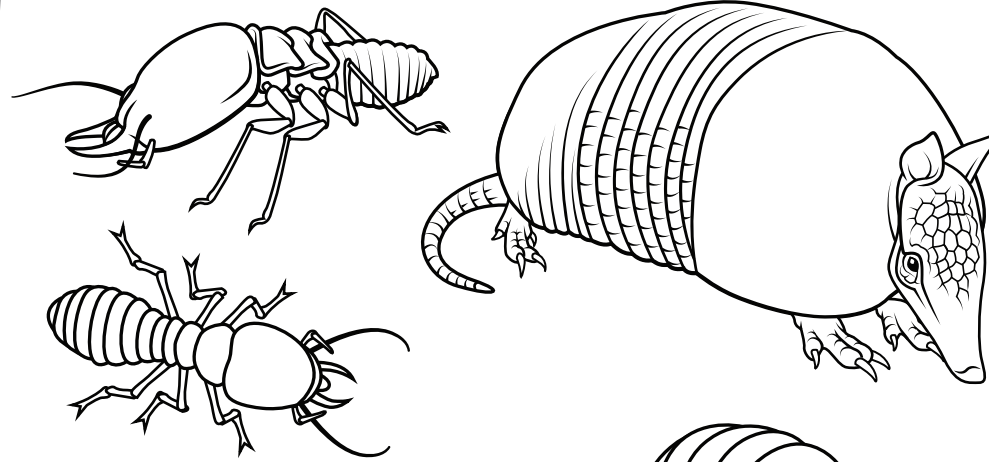
We use natural resources from the soil.

Actions like recycling can help us reuse these resources so we can protect soils.



Many organisms are found in the soil - it's a habitat!

In the soil you can find the roots of trees, animals like worms, mice, ants and moles, fungi and microscopic organisms that are too small to see with your eye!



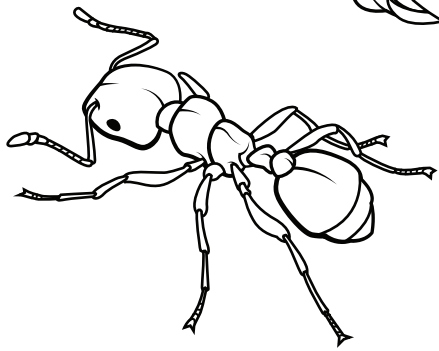
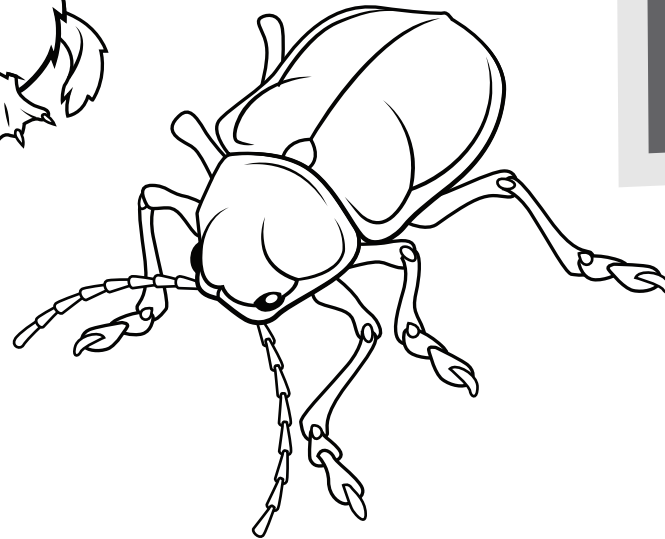
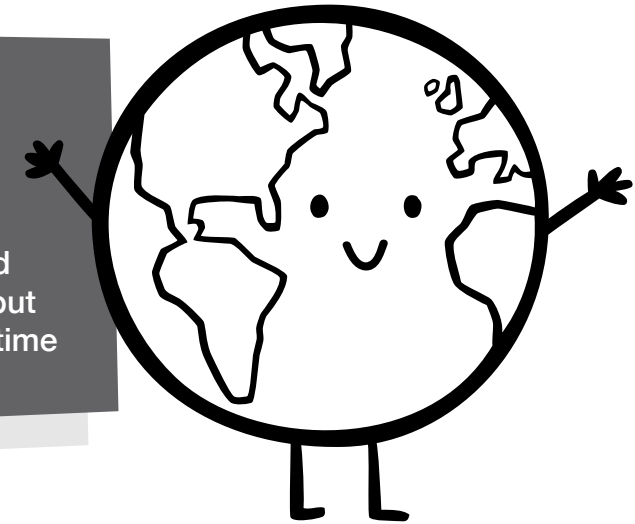
Did you know that they can also have a state soil?

This can include a soil that is unique or significant to each state.



It can take up to 1,000 years for a half-inch of topsoil to form.

Fertile soil is important to food production and life on Earth, but this resource can take a long time to form.



Soil has three main particles:

Silt, Sand and Clay. These particles can combine in different ways to form different types of soils.

