

# Soil is NOT dirt!

It is so much more than that...

Courtesy of the Soil Science Society of America  
[www.soils.org/lessons](http://www.soils.org/lessons)



**Dirt** gets under our fingernails, and  
on our clothes...



...then what is  
**SOIL?**

How does it differ  
from **dirt**?

What is **SOIL** made up of?

**MINERALS**

from rocks

**AIR**



**WATER**

**ORGANIC MATTER**

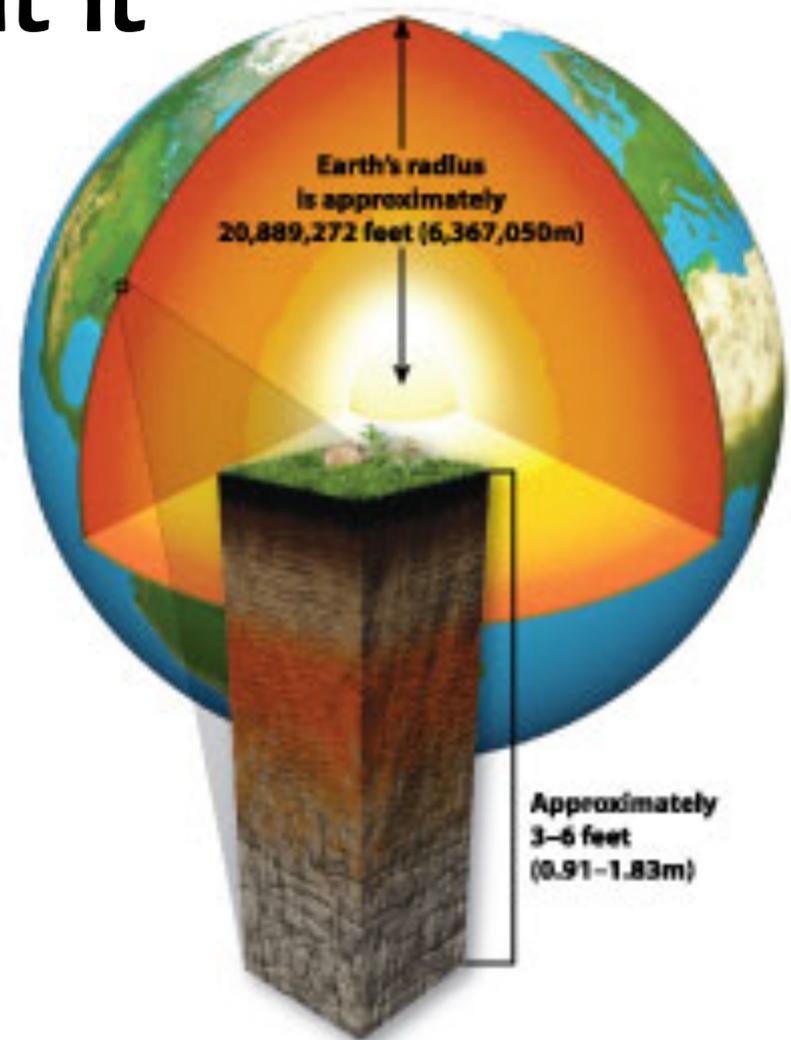
**SOIL** is the **SKIN** of the earth!

We can't live without it

Most of our **FOOD** comes from plants in the **SOIL**.

Part of the **OXYGEN** we breathe comes from plants.

Most of the **WATER** we drink and use is cleaned by **SOIL**.



It is important to history and culture!



People worshipped gods or goddesses of **soil**.

Early laws were written on **clay** tablets.

Adam means **soil** or **earth** in Hebrew.

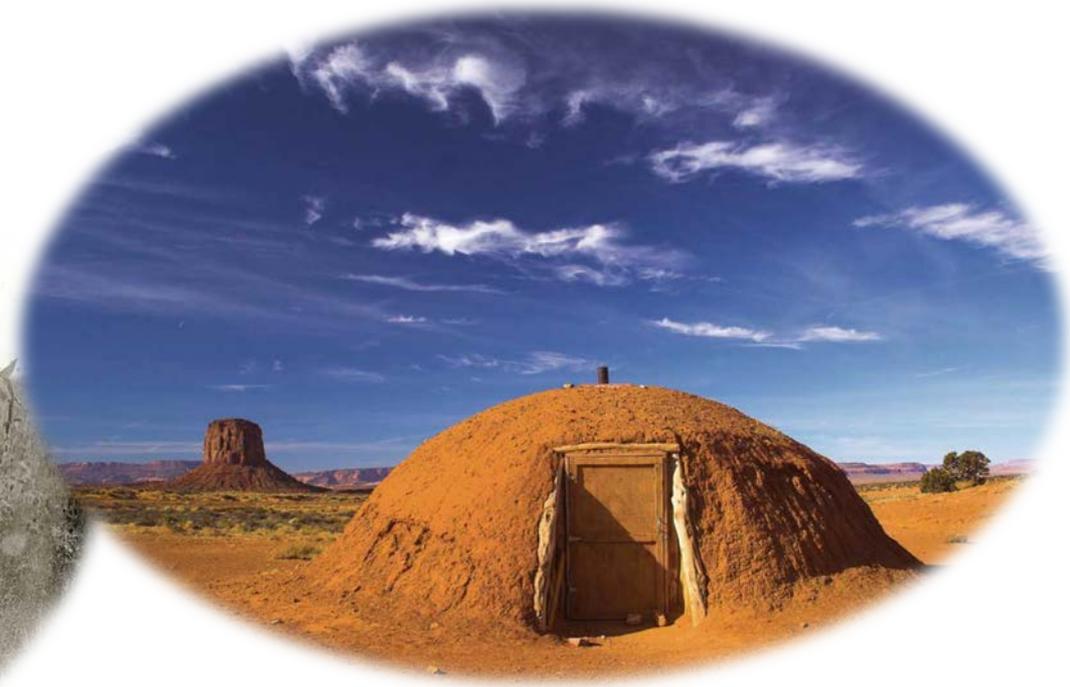
**Clay** has been used  
to make **POTS** and  
**URNS**.

Some were  
decorated with  
**PAINTS** from soil.



# People have made houses out of soil for centuries.

This includes modern day bricks, concrete, and ceramic tiles, which all come from **SOIL**.



Earthen homes of the Navajo Nation

Prairie Houses out of SOD bricks

A red notebook with a textured cover and a stack of white pages is positioned in the upper left corner. An orange pencil with a sharpened lead tip lies diagonally across the lower left corner. The background is white with a vertical light gray line.

**Earth/Soil** were some of the first words ever written.

Stories about soil, farming, and land management were some of the first things written down.

**Earth/Soil** usually means life!

**Songs and poems have also been written that mention soil.**



**Including folk music, rock music, country music, and bluegrass.**

Why is soil **IMPORTANT** to...

Farmers?



Engineers?

# Artists and Potters?



# Archeologists?



# Geologists?



# Ecologists?

Can you think of any other careers  
soils is important to?

# Vocabulary

- Clay
- Soil
- Sod
- Archeologist
- Clay
- Ecologist
- Organic matter
- Organisms
- Minerals
- Pedologist
- Pores



# Vocabulary

- Geologist- a scientist who studies rocks, and how landscapes form
- Soil Scientist – a scientist who studies soil, works with and knows much about soil.
- Engineer – someone who went to the university to learn how to use science to design and make things that we can use, like building a house, car or toys.
- Farmer – the person who makes a living by growing plants and raising animals for food.

