SECTION 7.3  **Formation of Soil**

*In your textbook, read about soils and how they form.*

*Complete each statement.*

1. ________________ is the loose covering of weathered rock particles and decaying organic matter overlying the bedrock of Earth's surface.

2. Soil that is located above its parent material is known as ________________.

3. Soil that has been moved away from its parent bedrock is called ________________.

4. When heavy machinery digs out soil in the process of building a road, a vertical sequence layers of soil, called a(n) ________________, will often be exposed.

5. A distinct layer, or zone, located within a soil profile is known as a(n) ________________.

6. Soils formed at high latitudes and high elevations that have good drainage but no distinct horizons are classified as ________________.

7. A(n) ________________ is any one of various types of soil that can support a forest, grassland, prairie, or other environments.

8. Soils found in areas with less than 25 cm of rainfall that often have a high accumulation of salts are called ________________.

9. Soil forms as a result of ________________ and biological activity that breaks down and changes soil materials over long periods of time.

10. The relative proportions of particle sizes make up a soil's ________________.

11. Soil ________________ is the measure of how well a soil can support the growth of plants.
SECTION 7.3  *Formation of Soil, continued*

*In your textbook, read about soil profiles.*
Complete the soil profile by filling in the horizons. Then answer the questions.

12. 

13. 

14. 

15. Which horizon is the surface layer? Describe it.

16. Which horizon is the subsoil? Describe it.

17. Which horizon occurs directly above bedrock? Describe it.
Section 7.3 Formation of Soil (continued)

Main Idea

Soil Types
Use with page 172.

Details

Compare and Contrast polar, temperate, desert, and tropical soils by completing the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soil Types</th>
<th>Polar</th>
<th>Temperate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Form at</td>
<td>Support environments such</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Grassland soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Forest soils</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Desert</th>
<th>Tropical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Soil Fertility
Use with page 173.

Identify the five factors that affect soil fertility.

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 

Real-World Connection

Every food we eat can be traced back to soil. Take ice cream, for example: ice cream is made with milk; milk comes from cows; cows eat grass; grass grows in soil. So, ice cream comes from soil! Think of a food you like to eat. Then trace the food back to its origin in soil.

Section 7.3 Formation of Soil