



SOIL EROSION

**WHY IS SOIL IMPORTANT, AND
HOW CAN IT BE CONSERVED?**


SOIL(ED)

**SOIL MEANS DIFFERENT
THINGS TO DIFFERENT
PEOPLE**





SOIL: THE LOOSE
ROCK MATERIAL
THAT MAKES UP
PART OF EARTH'S
SURFACE.

A close-up photograph of a pair of weathered, brown hands gently cupping a small, vibrant green seedling with four leaves. The seedling is growing out of a mound of dark, rich soil. The background is a soft-focus field of similar soil. The entire image is framed by a thin, textured green border.

Soil is a...

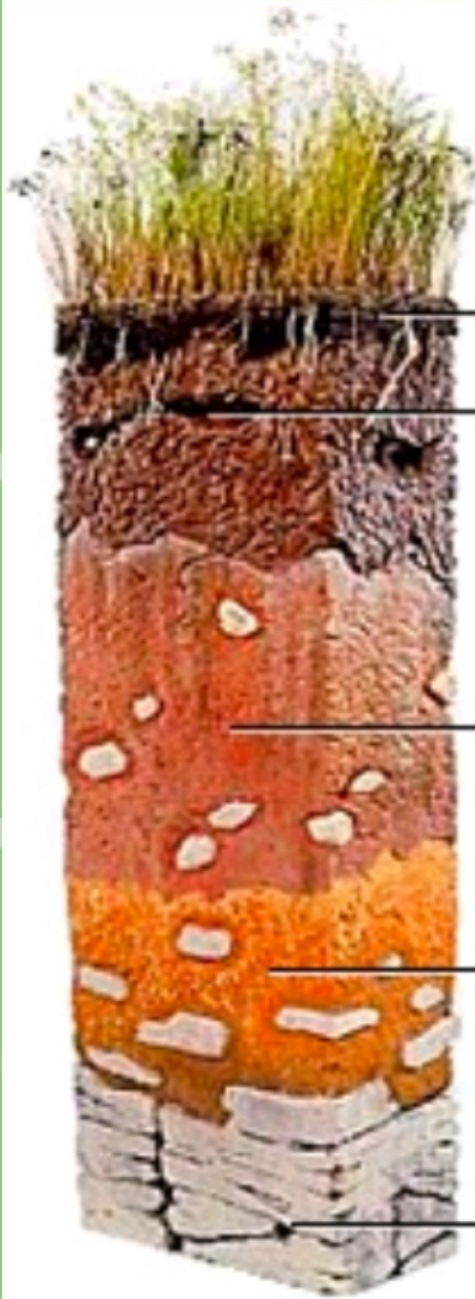
Natural Resource

The most important thing about soil is that plants grow in it.



Gully





Humus

Topsoil
often rich in humus
and minerals

Subsoil
poor in humus,
rich in minerals

**Weathered rock
fragments**
little or no plant or
animal life

Bedrock

Soil is made up
of many
LAYERS

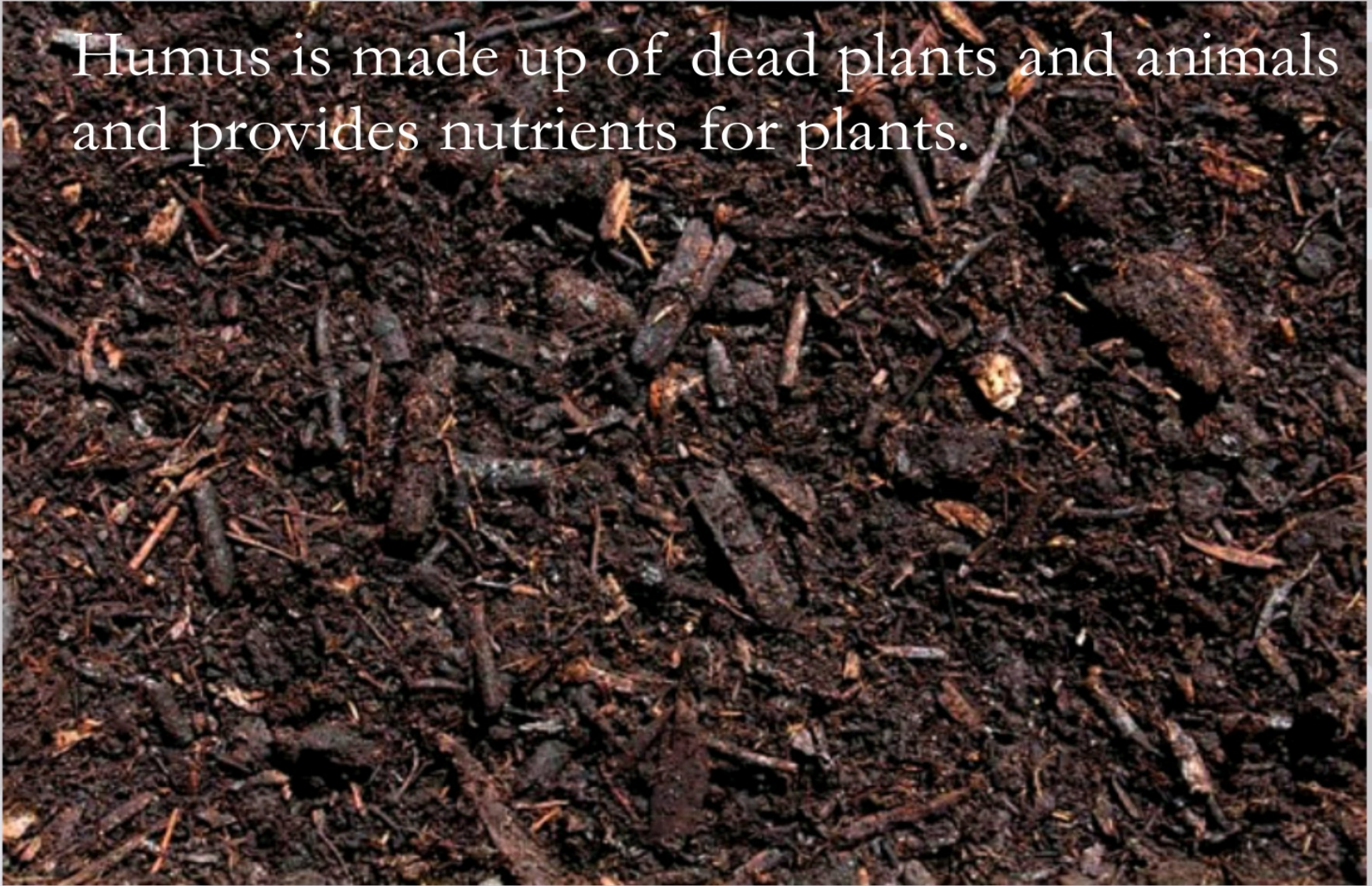


Topsoil: Mixture of weathered rock and **humus**.

Humus is made up of dead plants and animals and provides nutrients for plants.

Humus

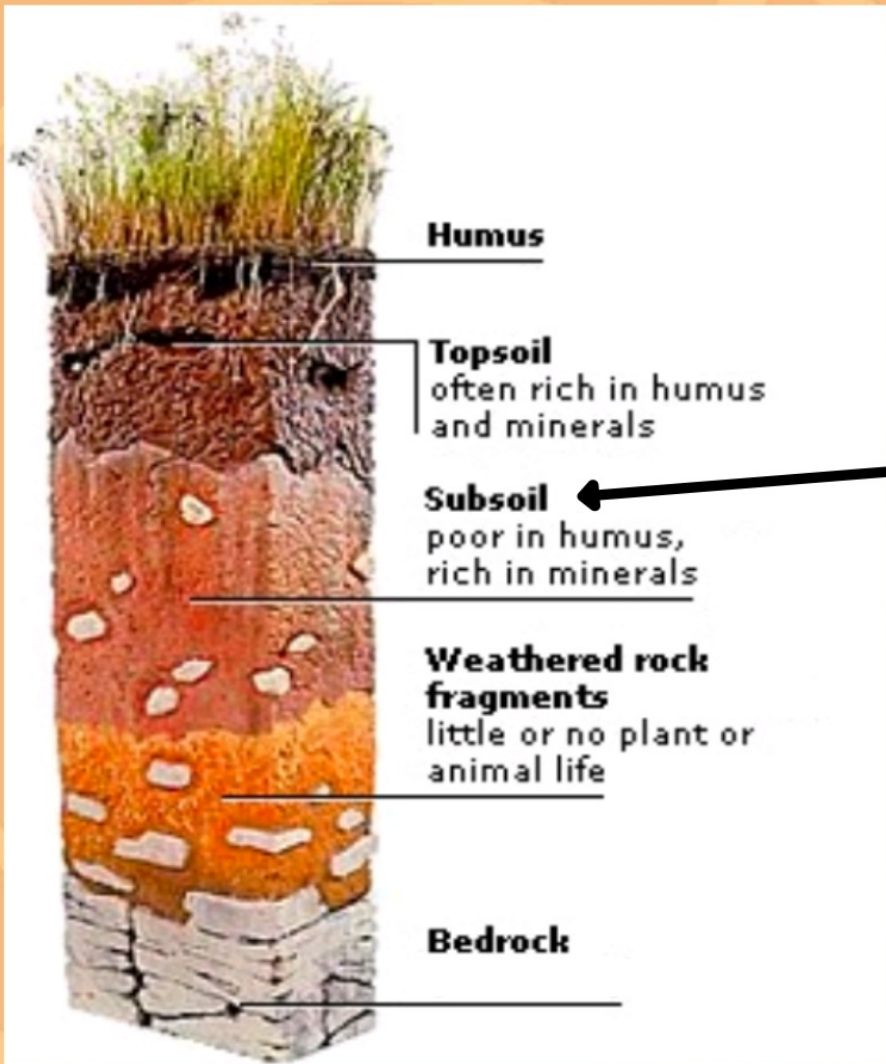
Humus is made up of dead plants and animals and provides nutrients for plants.



Hummus: a dip made from mashed chickpeas, olive oil, lemon juice, tahini (sesame paste), and garlic.



Hummus
is not
Hummus



Subsoil: a reddish or yellowish layer, made mostly of clay.

WEATHERED

ROCK: between the subsoil and the bedrock.



Contour Plowing



Plowing the hill in a way that follows the shape of the land.

This slows down water as it goes downhill so it can sink into the soil.

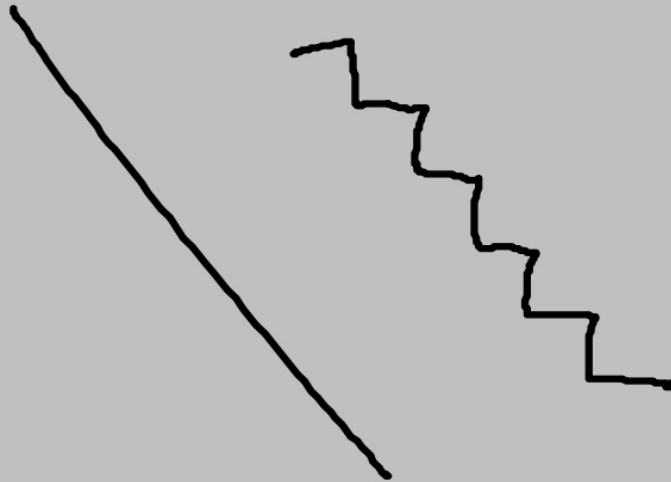


Contour planting on terraces in Montgomery County, Iowa. USDA Photo by Tim Mo

Strip Cropping



Terracing



Contour Plowing: Plowing land in a way that follows the shape of the land. Slows water down so it sinks

Strip Cropping: Planting a fast growing crop next to another so that the soil doesn't erode as quickly.

Dam Building: Farmers build dams to stop gullies from forming.

Terracing: Building step-like ridges in the sides of mountains for farming. Stops soil from eroding downhill.

