The surface of the earth consists of complex natural formations which are what is known to us as ***soils***. The variety of soils mainly depends on the various types of rocks which they are composed of. Furthermore, topography, life of animals or plants, the age of the material of the soil, farming operations, as well as climatic conditions are some of the factors which affect soils.

There are various types of layers in the soil:

1. The ***surface soil*** or ***topsoil*** which is the upper layer, in which beneficial bacteria, worms, as well as the most of the plant roots can be found.
2. The ***subsoil*** which is the layer lying under the topsoil and receives materials washed out of the topsoil.
3. The ***parent*** ***rock***, which is the lower layer of soil in the earth surface.

Soils are basically composed of:

* ***Solids*** which are principally formed by **a)** mineral or inorganic matter, such as stones, silt, clay, sand, etc and **b)** organic matter, such as plants and animals’ parts that are left in the soil.
* ***Liquids*** which are mostly formed by soil water.
* ***Living*** ***organisms*** which are micro-organisms, such as earthworms, bacteria, etc.
* ***Gases*** (soil air) which, along with water, fill in the spaces among the soil particles.

1. What does the variety of soils depend on?
2. Name the three layers of the soil.
3. What can be found in the topsoil?
4. What are the soils composed of?
5. Mineral matter: Organic matter:
6. a) The surface of the earth consists of complex natural formations, known as soils. **T** / **F**

b) The subsoil is a layer which lies over the topsoil. **T** / **F**

1. Soils can be affected by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. the top covering of the earth
3. stones forming the major part of earth
4. works, activities
5. coatings or lines one upon or under each other
6. substances that don’t flow
7. very small piece of something

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | soil | a. | influence | 1 |  |
| 2. | complicated | b. | cultivating | 2 |  |
| 3. | farming | c. | the upper layers of earth | 3 |  |
| 4. | affect | d. | consisting of | 4 |  |
| 5. | composed of | e. | complex | 5 |  |

form 🡢 nature 🡢

vary 🡢 climate 🡢

operate 🡢 live 🡢

differ 🡢 space 🡢

compose 🡢 sand 🡢

lay 🡢 organism 🡢