



# AG-VENTURE WITH SOIL

Use the IAITC Soil Ag Mag to help you work through this worksheet!

Choose one of the quotes in the “Say it With Soil” section. Read the quote and then use information from the ag mag to explain and support that quote.

Below is a list of various ways that both you and farmers can conserve soil! Read through them and determine which are true and which are false.

	Farmers can use cover crops to replenish nutrients in the soil.
	You should walk on the grass and soil because it's softer than walkways.
	Everyone should practice the three R's: Reduce, recycle, and reuse.
	Farmers should remove buffers so that surface water can flow wherever it wants to.
	Farmers can use technology to analyze their land and areas of erosion.
	You can inform your friends and family about the importance of protecting soil.

Soil is like an onion, it has layers! Well maybe not quite like onions, BUT there are layers! So, what are those layers? Match the layer name in the left column to the correct definition in the right column. Then, match the definition to the correct layer in the diagram on the right side.

- |                 |                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Topsoil         | This layer is made up of sand, silt, and clay but has significantly less organic material. It's about one foot below the surface.                        |
| Bedrock         | This is more compact and rocky than the layers above it and can be found about three feet below the surface.                                             |
| Humus Layer     | This layer is comprised of organic matter like trees, plants, and grass, as well as decomposing matter like fallen leaves. This is the layer we walk on! |
| Subsoil Layer   | Most nutrients, organisms, and roots are in this layer. It is composed of sand, silt, clay, and organic material.                                        |
| Parent Material | A layer of hard rock.                                                                                                                                    |



# TEACHER RESOURCES

## ANSWER KEY

Choose one of the quotes in the “Say it With Soil” section. Read the quote and then use information from the ag mag to explain and support that quote.

*Answers will vary but should focus on how soil is important for plants to get their nutrients. Soil can be easily damaged but not easily replaced. Since we rely on plants for food and plants rely on soil for nutrients, we must take care of the soil.*

Below is a list of various ways that both you and farmers can conserve soil! Read through them and determine which are true and which are false.

T	Farmers can use cover crops to replenish nutrients in the soil.
F	You should walk on the grass and soil because it's softer than walkways.
T	Everyone should practice the three R's: Reduce, recycle, and reuse.
F	Farmers should remove buffers so that surface water can flow wherever it wants to.
T	Farmers can use technology to analyze their land and areas of erosion.
T	You can inform your friends and family about the importance of protecting soil.

Soil is like onions, it has layers! Well maybe not quite like onions BUT there are layers! So, what are those layers? Match the layer name in the left column to the correct definition in the right column. Then, match the definition to the correct layer in the diagram on the right side.

Topsoil	<del>This layer is made up of sand, silt, and clay but has significantly less organic material. It's about one foot below the surface.</del>
Bedrock	<del>This is more compact and rocky than the layers above it and can be found about three feet below the surface.</del>
Humus Layer	<del>This layer is comprised of organic matter like trees, plants, and grass, as well as decomposing matter like fallen leaves. This is the layer we walk on!</del>
Subsoil Layer	<del>Most nutrients, organisms, and roots are in this layer. It is composed of sand, silt, clay, and organic material.</del>
Parent Material	<del>A layer of hard rock.</del>

