

A W O R L D O F S O I L S

Y	C	L	A	Y	T	L	P	A	S	B
E	M	E	R	A	E	K	R	I	P	L
M	I	N	U	S	U	D	A	A	D	A
A	F	L	C	D	Z	W	I	E	Y	C
S	C	S	I	L	T	E	R	F	O	K
A	K	M	J	R	L	E	I	P	S	L
N	C	H	S	E	V	H	E	S	O	I
D	H	K	U	D	S	S	Y	C	I	Y
M	A	C	I	E	T	G	T	T	L	F
G	R	O	C	O	L	O	R	L	H	O
O	G	F	T	N	O	I	B	U	M	R
M	E	U	C	I	F	O	R	E	S	T

Many plants and animals grow in **SOIL**. Soil is a mixture of sand, silt and clay particles. **SAND** feels rough or gritty when you touch it. **SILT** feels soft and smooth when you touch it. **CLAY** is the smallest soil particle. Some soils contain organic matter. Organic matter is **BLACK** in **COLOR** and comes from dead plants and animals.

The organic matter is deep in soils that come from **PRAIRIES**. The grasses in the prairie die each winter and help to build the soil. Soils that come from a **FOREST** have a shallow organic layer.

Soil has an electrical **CHARGE**. The clay and the organic matter in soil give it a **MINUS** charge. Some nutrients (those with a minus charge) move through the soil easily and can pollute the water if plants and animals do not use them. Nutrients that have a plus charge stick to the clay and organic matter in the soil.