

# SIR APOLLO KAGGWA SCHOOLS SINCE 1996

## P.3 LITERACY I HOME STUDY ACTIVITIES

WEEK 1

### Sub-Theme: Soil

#### Soil

Soil is the top layer of the earth's surface **Or** Soil is a medium on which plants grow and animals live.

#### Components of soil

These are things which make up soil.

#### Examples of soil components

Air

Water

Humus

Rock particles

Mineral salts







Living organisms.

#### Uses of each component

##### 1. Air

- Oxygen in soil helps living organisms in soil to breathe.
- Oxygen gas also helps in seed germination.

#### Examples of living organisms in soil.

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>earth worms</b><br> | <b>termites</b><br> | <b>rats</b><br>       |
| <b>Red ants</b><br>    | <b>Snakes</b><br>   | <b>black ants</b><br> |

##### 2. Living organisms

They help to aerate the soil.

### 3. Water

- It keeps the soil moist.
- It helps in seed germination.

### 4. Humus

It keeps the soil fertile.

### Exercise

1. What is soil?

---

2. List down four things which make up soil.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Give one way in which humus is important in soil.

---

4. Identify the two components of soil which help in seed germination.

(i) \_\_\_\_\_ (ii) \_\_\_\_\_

5. Write out the living components of soil from the list.

Earth worms

Termites

Water

Humus

Air

Rats

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Water in the soil

- It keeps the soil wet / moist.
- It helps in seed germination.
- It helps plants to grow well.

### Ways of keeping water in the soil

By mulching.

### Mulching

This is the covering of top soil with dry plant materials.

## **Uses / importance of mulching.**

- It helps to keep water in the soil.
- It controls soil erosion.

## **Humus**

Humus is rotten organic matter in the soil.

## **How humus is formed?**

- By decomposition of dead plants and animals or by decay of dead organic matter.

## **Uses of humus in the soil**

Humus helps to keep the soil fertile.

## **Ways of keeping the soil fertile**

- By mulching.
- By adding manure.
- By bush farrowing.

## **Exercise**

1. Identify the component of soil formed by decay of dead plants and animals.

---

2. State one way of keeping water in the soil.

---

3. Write down one importance of mulching in the garden.

---

4. How is humus formed?

---

5. State the importance of humus in the soil.

---

6. Mention one way of keeping the soil fertile.

---

## **Other components of soil.**

### **5. Mineral salts.**

These are nutrients in soil. Mineral salts help plants to grow strong.

### **Examples of mineral salts**

- |     |           |      |        |
|-----|-----------|------|--------|
| i)  | Potassium | iii) | Sodium |
| ii) | Calcium   |      |        |

### **6. Rock particles**

These are small broken particles or pieces of rocks.

Rock particles help to hold soil together.

## **Uses of soil**

### **(a)To man**

- Man makes things out of soil e.g charcoal stoves, bricks, flower vase etc.
- Man grows crops on soil.
- Man uses sand soil for construction.
- Man sells sand soil to get money.
- Sand soil used for making glasses.

### **(b)To plants**

- Plants get water from the soil.
- Plants get mineral salts from the soil.

### **(c)To animals**

- Some animals live in the soil e.g rats, snakes, moles, termites, earth worms
- Some animals eat soil e.g snakes

**Note:**

Animals which live in soil help in soil aeration.

**Exercise**

1. Mention three animals which live in soil.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Suggest the importance of animals which live in soil.

3. Besides construction, give any one other use of sand soil to man.

4. State one way soil can be useful to plants.

\_\_\_\_\_

