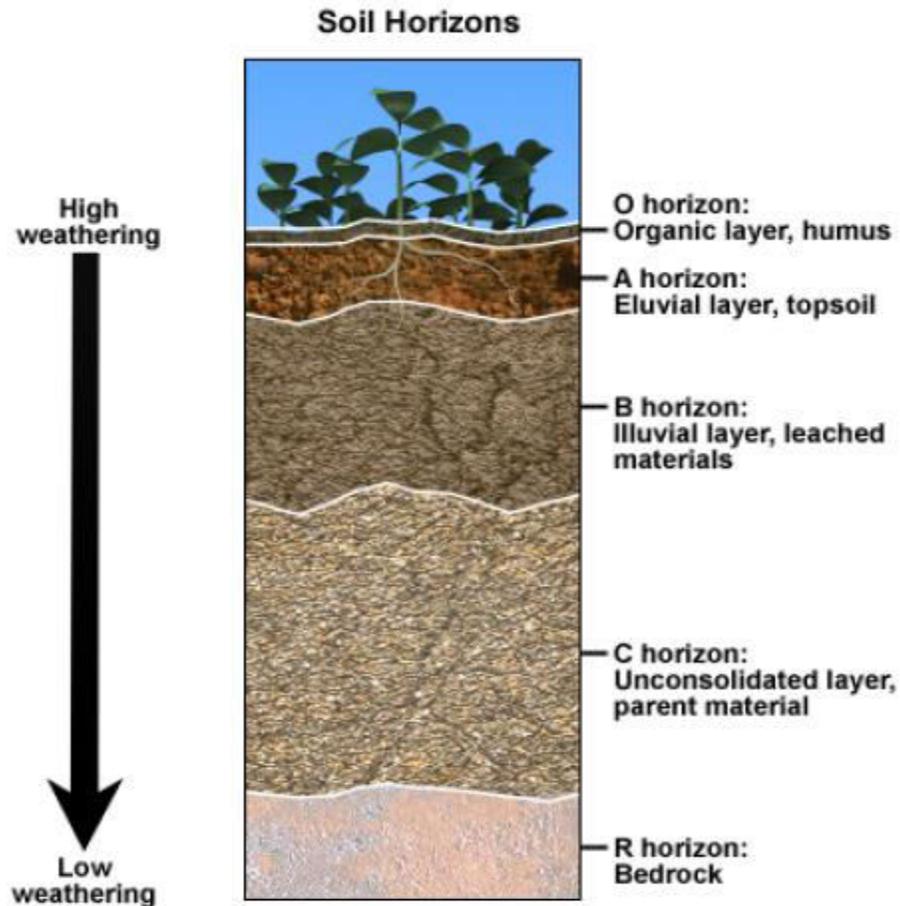


Week 8

SOIL PROFILE

The influence of soil formation factors can be shown in a soil profile.



A soil profile is a vertical section through a particular soil from the surface to the underlying rock.

- O – Organic material at the surface.
- A – Horizon – the top soil which contains some weathered materials and organic elements rich in humus. It is where biological activity and humus content are at their maximum.
- B – Horizon contains weathered parent material and animals from the horizon may be deposited. The zone of accumulation or illuviation where clays and other materials are removed from A – horizon and are re-deposited. The A and B horizons together make up the soil.
- C-horizon – is the sub-soil (weathered parent material). Consists mainly of recently weathered regolith on the bedrock.

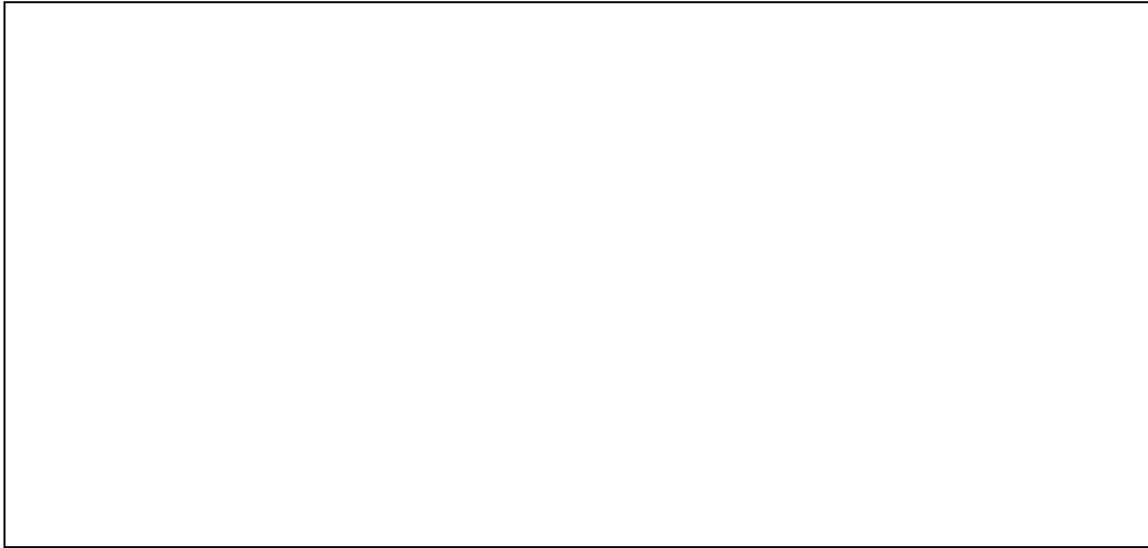
- D – Horizon – parent material.
- The depth of each layer varies from several centimeters to several meters.

Soil minerals are obtained mainly by the weathering of the parent rock.

- Texture refers to the degree of coarseness of the mineral matter in the soil. It is determined by the proportion of sand and clay particles. A loam soil is likely to be least susceptible.

Short Answers

Draw and label the soil horizon with what happens in each of the soil profile.



ii. In your own words explain a reason A Horizon is dark red in color compared to the rest of the soil layers. _____

iii. Define soil profile _____
