

**PENANG SANGAM HIGH SCHOOL
P.O.BOX 44, RAKIRAKI
LESSON NOTES**

Worksheet 5

School: PENANG SANGAM HIGH SCHOOL

Year/Level: 11

Subject: GEOGRAPHY

WEEK 14

Strand	Soil
Sub Strand	Soil – case study Fiji
Content Learning Outcome	Students should be able to understand the characteristics of lateritic soils, talasiga soils , hydromorphic , vertisols, Linosols and coral limestone soils as well as location of where it is found in Fiji.

3. Lateritic Soils (Also known are Laterites or Latosols)

<i>Characteristic/Feature</i>	<i>Location</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are deep reddish-brown or yellowish in colour. • These soils are deeply weathered and soluble minerals have been completely leached out of the A & B – Horizons. This has left the top layer of the soil high in iron content giving it the yellow –red colour. • It has low fertility but if fertilized well can be valuable for agriculture 	<p>Laucala Island, Koro area between Suva and Navua (ie Naboro, Nabukavesi, etc.</p>

4. Talasiga Soils

<i>Characteristic</i>	<i>Location</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor soils because they have been subject to repeated burning and clearing over a long period. • Vegetation removal and exposure has changed the structure of the soil resulting in low fertility. 	<p>May be found in the cane growing areas of Nadi, Lautoka, Ba, Labasa, Seaqqa, etc.</p>

Short Answers

1. What are some the characteristics of the lateritic soils and Talasiga soil?

2. Identify the locations where these type of soils are found?

5. Hydromorphic or Gley Soils

<i>Characteristic</i>	<i>Location</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Found in swampy areas where water tables are high. They have poor drainage• Plant nutrients are not leached out due to the constant presence of water.• they are highly fertile but very sticky and water-logged.• They are formed through the <u>gleying</u> process which occurs when water fills up the air spaces in the soil leaving the soil low in oxygen and iron compounds.	Mainly found at the mouths of the Rewa and Navua rivers and on the floodplains of Labasa, Wailevu and Dreketi rivers.

6. Vertisols

<i>Characteristic/Feature</i>	<i>Location</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dark brown or black in colour• Rich in clay content therefore they are able to hold plant nutrients• Difficult to cultivate because they swell and become sticky when wet and very hard and cracks when dry.	Found in large low-lying areas between hilly and rolling hill country of the larger islands.

7. Lithosols (Mountain) Soils

- Found on the steep mountain slopes of the high islands.
- Very thin due to high rate of erosion.
- Relief is the most important soil forming factor for the soil.

8. Coral Limestone Soils

- Found on sandy low-lying coral atolls and coastal areas.
- Is very porous (this means that the soil contains a lot of air spaces).
- Contains little organic minerals and few plant nutrients.
- They are amongst the poorest soils in Fiji.
- Location – Fulaga, Moala, Lakeba, etc.