

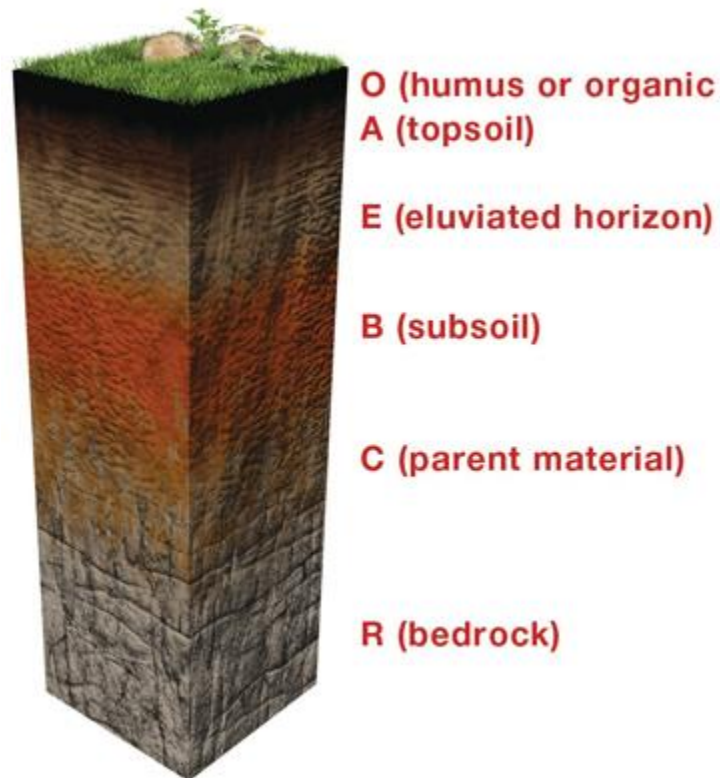
Edible Science Recipe – Soils

Overview:

In this activity you will learn about soils and construct your own using edible ingredients.

Background:

Soils, also known as the “skin of the earth,” are complex mixtures of minerals, water, air, organic matter, gases, liquids, and countless organisms. Soils have many functions that are vital to the Earth, including supporting plant growth, storing water, and changing the Earth’s atmosphere. The soils are also home to many organisms such as groundhogs, mice, worms, bacteria, and fungi. **Did you know there are more microorganisms in a handful of soil than humans on Earth?** Soils consist of six layers called horizons (shown below) which, like a book, tells a detailed story about the life of the soil. Using edible ingredients, we can create our own horizons by following a simple recipe.



Edible Soils Recipe*

- Chocolate and butterscotch chips
- Chocolate pudding
- Oreo cookies
- Shredded coconut
- Green food coloring
- Gummy worms
- Clear plastic cups
- Spoons



Source: [Super Teacher Blog](#)

Instructions:

1. Add a handful of chocolate and butterscotch chips to the bottom of the cup to make the bedrock layer.
2. Next, add a good amount of chocolate pudding on top of the chips to make the subsoil layer.
3. Crush up some Oreo cookies and add on top of the pudding to make the topsoil layer.
4. Finally, top it off with some gummy worms and a handful of green-colored coconut flakes (prepared ahead of time with green food coloring) to make the organic material at the surface of the soils.
5. Grab a spoon and enjoy!

***Note:** Get creative and use other ingredients to represent the different soil levels! If you are looking for healthier alternatives, try using yogurt, granola, fruits, and nuts instead. The results are sure to be scrumptious either way!

After you finish your soils and before you take a bite, take a photo and share it with us if you like. [Tweet](#) it at us! [Gram](#) it our way! Put it on [Facebook](#)! Tag us with #couchreach (that's outreach from your couch)!

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