



S.O.S. SAVE OUR SOIL Quiz !!

Soil is so important for many reasons. We live on it, we grow our food in it, we build on it and we build from it. Soil also filters and cleans the water we use and can help to reduce flooding. It balances and basically cleans the different elements and parts of the air that we breathe. Unfortunately, in many ways, people literally **“treat it like dirt”**. We really must value and care for it, after all this is PLANET EARTH !! The clue is in the name !!

Test your knowledge about this complex mixture of materials that is one of our most important natural resources

1) Which of these 4 materials is Soil made of?

- a) Pieces of rock, and dust, (minerals)
- b) Water
- c) Organic material, (living and decaying)
- d) Air
- e) **All of these**

2) How many living micro-organisms do you think there can be in just 1 gram of Soil?

- a) 50
- b) 5000
- c) **50,000**

3) What age do you think might be the oldest Soil in the world (in Southern Africa)?

- a) 1 Million years
- b) 3 Million years
- c) **3 Billion years**

4) How old do you think the Soil in the UK is?

- a) **15,000 years**
- b) 150,000 years
- c) 1,500,000 years

5) Worms play a big part in improving soil quality by mixing the soil and organic matter that they eat. A worm can eat its own weight in soil in 1 day. How much of the total of the world's Soil do you think passes through worm's bodies in 1 year?



- a) 75%
- b) **50%**
- c) 25%

6) Soil is an important store of Carbon. Compared to all the plants on earth, (including trees), how much do you think it holds?

- a) Half as much b) The same c) **3 times as much**

7) Due to intensive farming methods, which release Carbon from the Soil, how much Carbon do you think may have been lost in just the last 30 years?

- a) **10%** b) 5% c) 1%

8) Which of these actions do you think would help to safeguard and Save our Soil?

a) Where possible, people could grow their own fruit and vegetables (organically, without chemicals).

b) People make their own compost, from many materials including food waste, to enrich their soil.

c) Buying and using recyclable, compostable, natural products and packaging as much as possible; Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

d) Disposing of all waste and rubbish carefully and responsibly.

e) Looking at www.fao.org/world-soil-day and then raising awareness of the threats to our Soil.

f) Joining a local action group such as Transition Loughborough.
<https://transitionloughborough.wordpress.com/>

g) **All of these actions.**

There's lots more information about soil on the following websites:

www.easyscienceforkids.com or www.theschoolrun.com or just put "Soil facts" into your search engine.

Other activities you could do:

Make your own compost bin or wormery.

Grow some plants or food in the garden, in a window box or hanging basket.