

Pre-Work Questions

1. In the main (first) section “What Is Soil?,” which three critical functions that soil performs might apply to agriculture and why?
2. What are the five components of soil as listed in the section “How Does Soil Form?”
3. What are the five major factors that control how a soil forms, as listed in the section “How Does Soil Form?”
4. As listed in the section “Soil Types,” there are 12 soil types, and each state and territory in the United States has a representative soil, like a state flower or bird. Find your state/territory soil by going to: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/soilsurvey/soils/survey/state/>. What is the name of your state/territory’s representative soil and which crops are grown in it?
5. Answer the following:
 - A. In the section “What Makes Soil, Soil?,” what are the three particle sizes listed?
 - B. What is a loamy soil texture?
 - C. What moves within the pore spaces between peds?
 - D. Finally, what soil is described as being the best for farmland, and why is it considered the best?