

2017 NACD POSTER CONTEST

Healthy Soils Are Full of Life!

Sponsored by: The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and the NACD Auxiliary

Poster Contest Page

<http://www.nacdnet.org/education/contests>

NACD Stewardship Program Page

<http://www.nacdnet.org/general-resources/stewardship-program/>



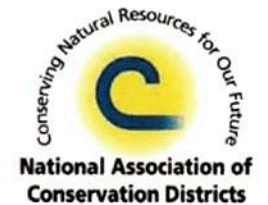
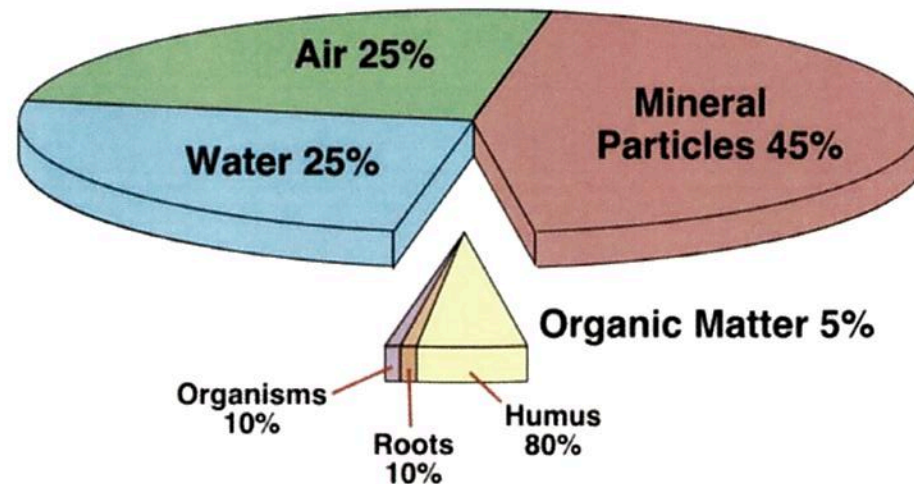
2017 Educational Theme

The NACD Stewardship and Education Committee's
2017 stewardship theme is
"Healthy Soils Are Full of Life!"



What is Soil?

Soil is the upper layer of the Earth's surface in which plants grow. It is made of tiny rocks, clay, minerals, and humus (the remains of dead plants and animals). Soil also contains air and water.



Why are soils important?

Soils are the foundation for everything that we are and do. From the clothes we wear, the food we eat, to the houses we live in, every person and thing gets its start from the soil!

Healthy soils are important for growing our food. We need healthy food to live and grow.

Plants need healthy soil to live and grow.

Some foods we eat grow above the ground (like tomatoes), while others grow below the ground (like potatoes).



Where do soils come from?

Soils don't have parents like we do, but they do have parent materials. Parent materials in soils are rocks and minerals that have been broken up into tiny pieces. Soils can be many different colors because they come from many different rocks and minerals.

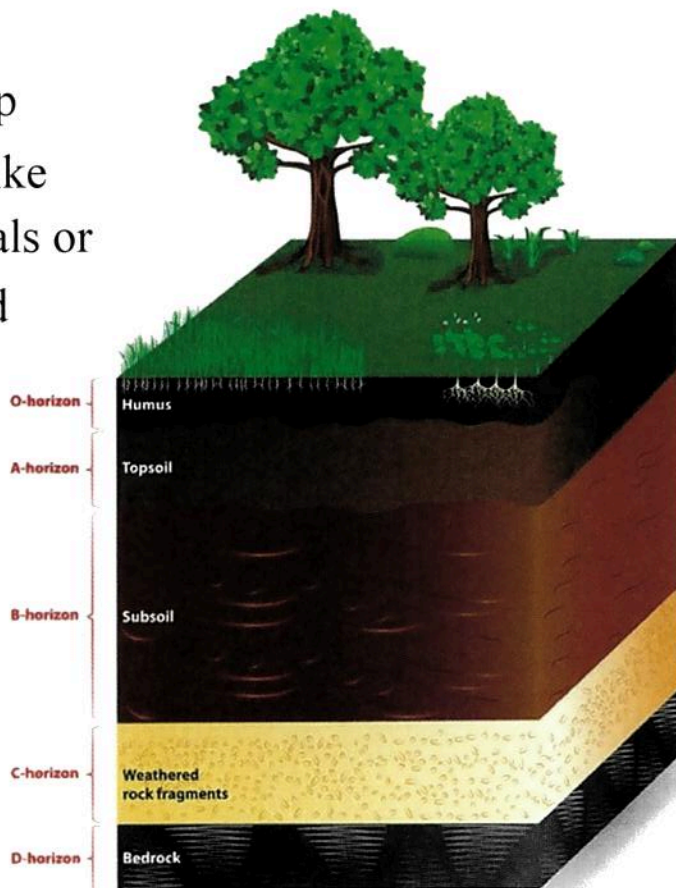


What are soils made up of?

Soils are made up of layers that are called horizons.

The **O Horizon** is a thin top layer of organic material like decomposing plant materials or the remains of animals and feces.

The **A horizon** is commonly referred to as topsoil. It is usually dark brown in color and rich in nutrients.



The **B horizon** is often referred to as subsoil. It contains minerals or organic matter that has been carried down from upper horizons by water.

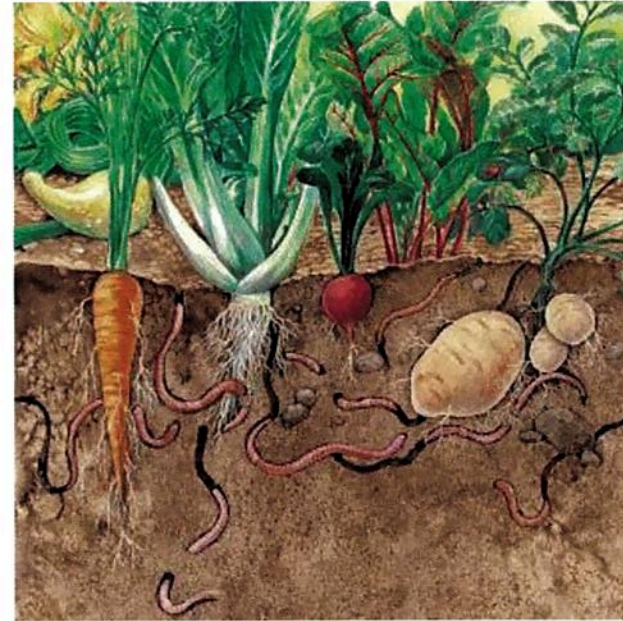
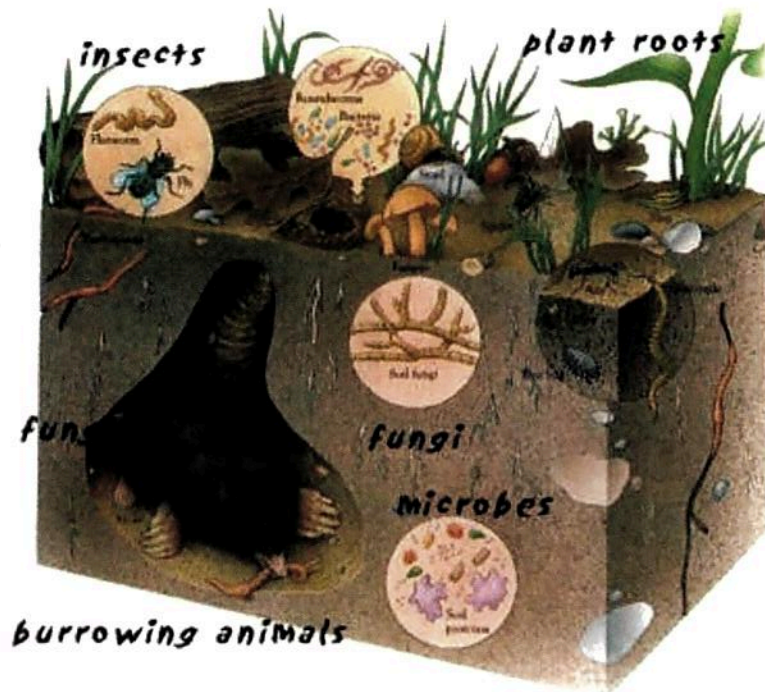
The **C horizon** is the parent material of the soil composed of broken up bedrock or sediments.

The **R layer** is the unweathered parent material of the soil.




Soils are alive!

Lots of bugs, worms, and other critters live in the soil. Some are so small you need a magnifying lens to see them.



Worms living in your yard, garden, or farm field are a real good sign that you have healthy soil. They make holes that help water and air get deep into the soil.

HE
SOILS
ARE FULL OF LIFE!

Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

National Association of
Conservation Districts

What is soil erosion?

Take a look outside after it rains. Look at the water in rivers, in ponds, or running along the roads. The water may be clear or muddy. If it is muddy, soil is being washed away and mixing with the water. This is soil erosion. Soil is being carried away by rainwater. If you see soil erosion happening in your yard, try planting some plants or trees. Roots from plants and trees help hold soil in place, preventing erosion.

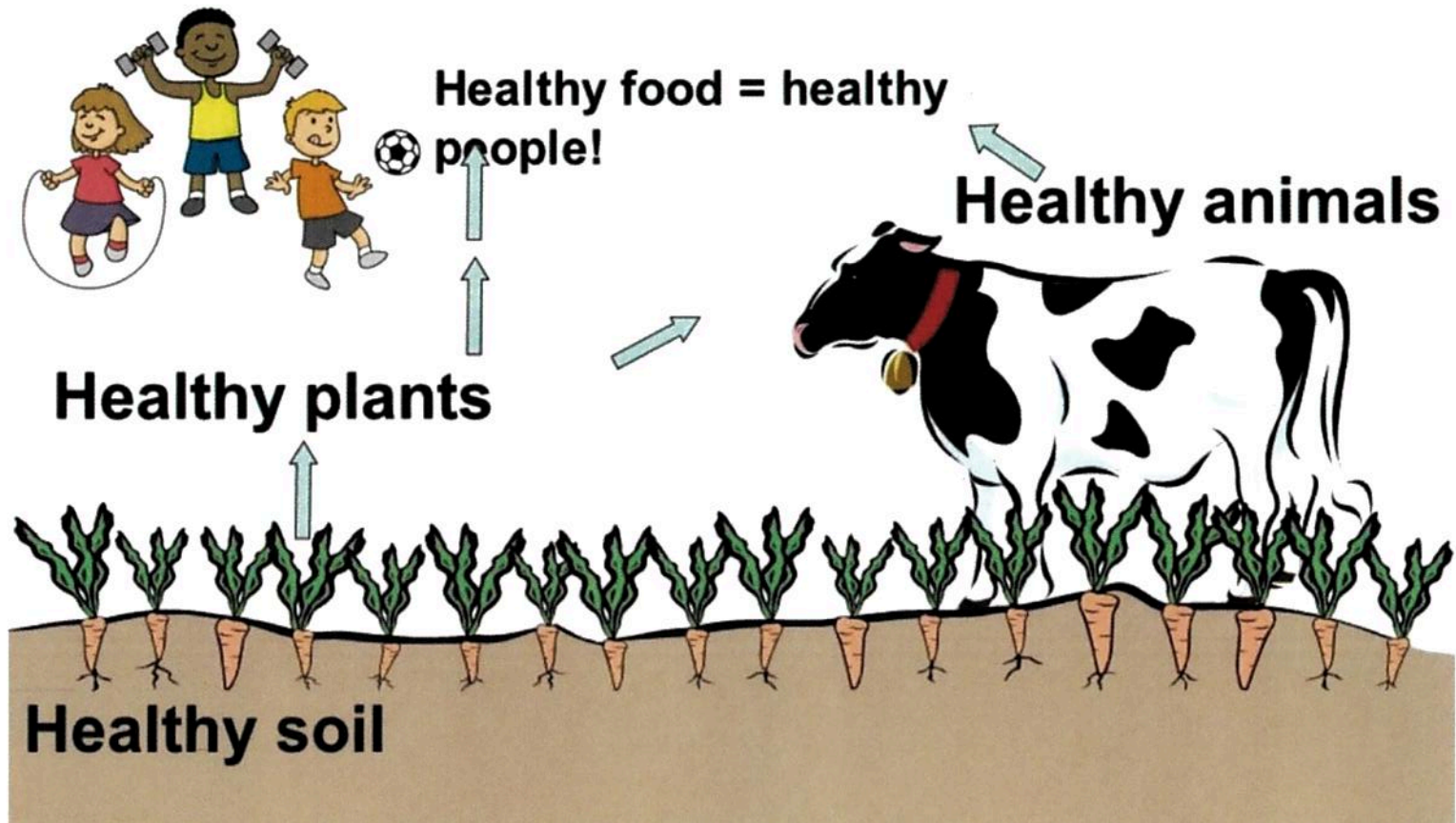


What is soil conservation?

Soil conservation is when you prevent soil erosion by planting new trees and plants and take steps to take care of them. It is important to keep our soil in place and healthy, otherwise we wouldn't be able to plant the crops that are necessary to feed all of the people and animals on earth.



Healthy Soils – Healthy People



How does food get from the soil to your spoon?

Getting food from the soil to your spoon takes a lot of hard work by many people. The food you eat comes from plants and animals grown by a farmer or raised by a rancher. Then food is moved from fields to processing and packaging plants and finally to stores or restaurants where it can be sold.



How does food get from the soil to your spoon?



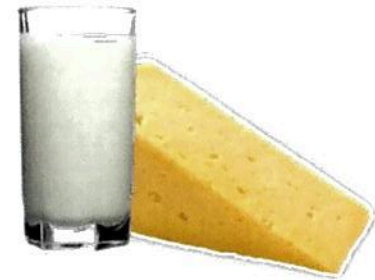
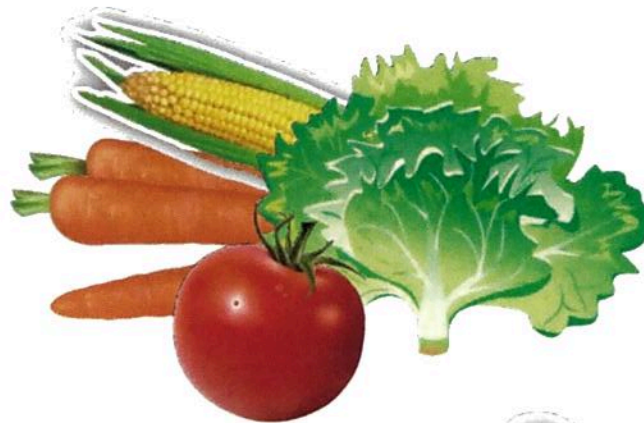
HEALTHY
SOILS
ARE FULL OF LIFE!

Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future


National Association of
Conservation Districts

What food should I eat each day to be healthy?

Your body needs healthy food from all five food groups every day – fruits, vegetables, grains, dairy and protein.



HEALTHY
SOILS
ARE FULL OF LIFE!

Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

National Association of
Conservation Districts

Soil Facts

- It can take up to 1,000 years to form an inch of top soil.
- One tablespoon of soil has more organisms in it than people here on earth.
- Not all soil is good for growing plants.



- There are thousands of different types of soil across the world. The USA alone possesses more than 70,000 varieties of soil!
- Soil acts as a filter for underground water, filtering out pollutants.
- Soil is at the bottom of the food chain, yet it is the cornerstone of life on earth.



HEALTHY
SOILS
ARE FULL OF LIFE!

Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

National Association of
Conservation Districts

Keeping the Soil We Need

Taking good care of our soil is the best way to make sure that we have the soil we need for food, water, air, clothes, and many other things. Nutritious and good food can only be produced if our soils are healthy living soils.

Contact your local conservation district to find out what **YOU** can do to help protect your soil.



Poster Contest Details

Turn poster in on time for judging. Your local conservation district's entry deadline is April 7, 2017

Attach a poster entry form to the back of each submission and be sure it is signed by a parent or guardian.

Every entry must be the contestant's original creation and may not be traced from photographs or other artists' published works.



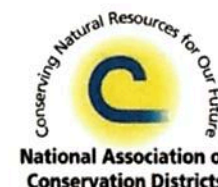
Poster Contest Details

Any media may be used to create a flat poster, including:

- Paint
- Crayons
- Colored pencil
- Charcoal
- Stickers
- Paper
- Or other materials

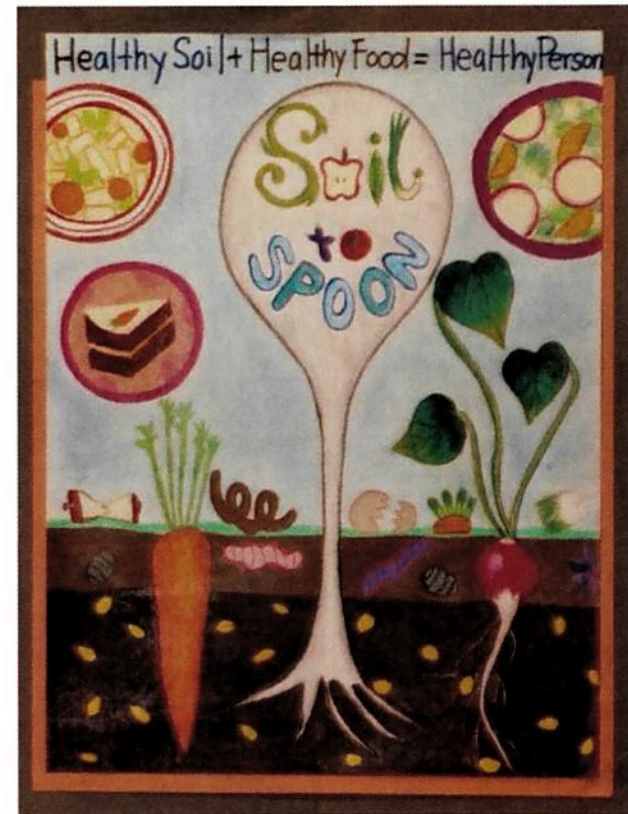


Poster size must be between **8.5" x 11"** and **22" x 28"**. (Unless another size is required by your local or state contest)



What makes a good Poster?

- ✓ Attracts attention
- ✓ Is simple and concise
- ✓ Uses colors and white space effectively
- ✓ Text is large enough to be easily read

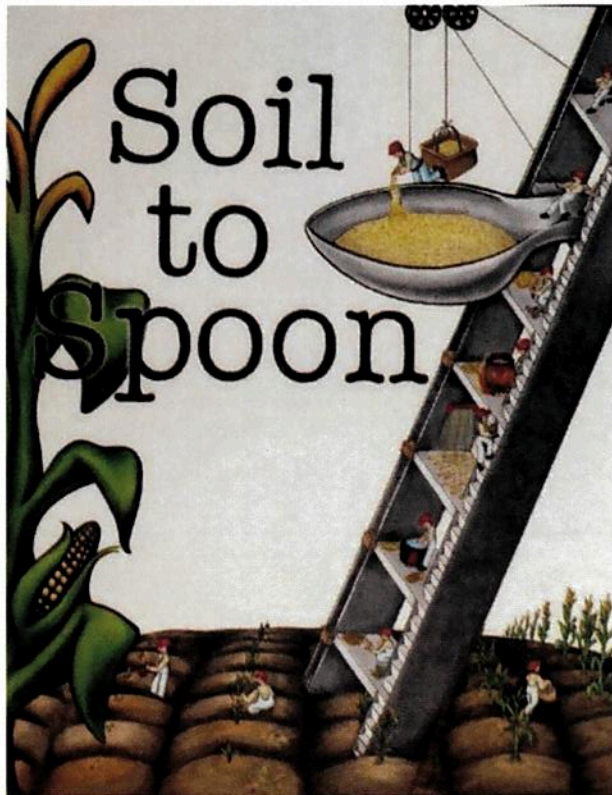


HEALTHY
SOILS
ARE FULL OF LIFE!

Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

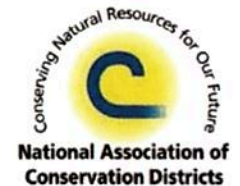
National Association of
Conservation Districts

Brainstorming Poster Ideas



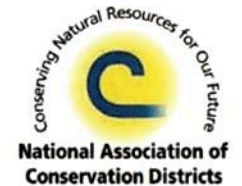
- Research the topic of the theme
- Brainstorm ideas and make a list
- Use the theme as your title:

Healthy Soils Are Full of Life!



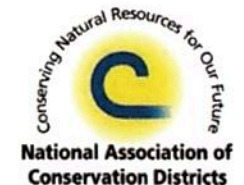
Brainstorming Poster Ideas

- Use some of the important soil issues from this presentation.
- Look around your community for ideas.
- Talk to professionals in the industry.
- Research soils online and use the information found in your poster.



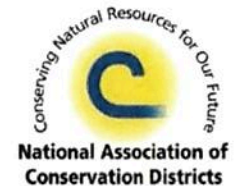
Dos:

- Do limit text, and balance a combination of illustrations and words.
- Do be as neat as you can and be sure to erase any penciled sketches or guidelines.
- Do blend colors when using crayons or colored pencils.
- Do research the theme topic as a way to brainstorm poster ideas.



Don'ts:

- Don't use staples, tacks, or tape.
- Don't use fluorescent-colored posters.
- Don't create a poster that is all words or all illustrations.
- Don't have your parent or others draw your poster for you to color in.
- Don't try to include too many ideas. A single message – clearly illustrated – is most effective.



Judging Criteria

- Conservation message—50 percent
- Visual effectiveness—30 percent
- Originality—10 percent and
- Universal appeal—10 percent

