

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Edible Soil Lab

Follow the directions step by step and make sure to answer the questions as you go. USE YOUR NOTES!

Step 1: Horizon R (Bedrock) – Oreo cookie in the bottom of the cup.

Why do you think we are using an Oreo to represent horizon R?

Bedrock is solid rock. Parent material is formed from the bedrock after a long weathering process. There are two basic ways that weathering can happen.

What are the two main types of weathering?

_____ and _____.

Physical weathering is

Chemical weathering is

Step 2: Horizon C – Crumbled cookies as the next layer.

How do the crumbled Oreos represent horizon C?

This is the C horizon in a soil profile. It is called the parent material because it is the weathered rock and partly weathered soil from which the soil layers above are formed.

What influences does the parent material have on the other horizons?

Step 3: Horizon B – Vanilla pudding as the next layer.

Horizon B is also known as _____.

Why is it lighter in color than the A Horizon?

Step 4: Horizon A – Chocolate pudding as the next layer. Add a gummy worm to the pudding.

Horizon A is also known as _____.

This is the top layer of soil. Nutrients, bacteria, fungi, and small animals are abundant. Plants thrive in it because of the nutrients in it.

Step 5: Litter – Sprinkles on the top.

The sprinkles represent the organic matter. This layer is usually less than an inch thick. Litter decomposes into nutrients that enrich the soil. In areas where the temperature is lower, the composition of organic matter is slower.

The decomposed litter will become _____.

Analysis:

In the cup below draw what you see in your cup. Label both the actual soil layer or part and the edible representation of the part.

Soil layer

Edible representation

