

Name: _____ Date: _____

Class: _____ Teacher: _____

Soil Formation - Earth Science Assignment

Directions: Print pages 1 and 2. The following illustrations show typical landscape regions that might be found at different locations throughout the United States. The tree images represent vegetation in general.

Observe each illustration and read all captions. Decide if thick, rich soil layers would or would not form in each environment.

On the blank lines to the right of each diagram, clearly explain:

1. Whether or not thick, rich soil layers would form in the landscape region shown.
2. If soil would form, where in the region would this occur and also where soil would not develop?

3. Give reasons to support your answers to numbers 1 and 2.

Be very specific! If one given illustration shows both slopes and flat land, be sure to indicate specifically where on the landscape topography soil would easily form and where it would not develop or accumulate.

Illustration 1: Steep Slopes



Location: Central Colorado, United States.

Topography: Steep slopes; very little flat land.

Rainfall: Average.

Vegetation: Abundant at higher elevations.

Illustration 1:

Illustration 2: Forest



Location: North Carolina, United States.

Topography: Flat land.

Rainfall: Abundant.

Illustration 2:

Vegetation: Abundant; dense forests.

Illustration 3: Valley



Location: Western Pennsylvania, United States.
Topography: Varied; slopes and flat valleys.
Rainfall: Average to abundant.
Vegetation: Average to abundant.

Illustration 3:

Illustration 4: Desert



Location: Northern New Mexico, United States.
Topography: Mesas, plateaus & cliffs; flat land.
Rainfall: Scarce.
Vegetation: Scarce.

Illustration 4:

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Need Assistance?
Soil Geography
Soil
Soil Forming Factors - The Story of Rocks and Soil (NASA)
A Closer Look: Soil Horizons
A Closer Look: Soil Formation