

# Fossils and Soil Layers

Cast & Mold Technique

# Here is an overview:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVwPLWOo9TE>

## Fossil Types:

- Trace (tracks, droppings, bite marks, plants)
- Mold (impression)
- Preservation/True Form (resin, amber, tar, ice, full body)
- Mineral replacement (cast)

# Vocabulary

Soil Profile

Fossil Types:

Clay

(Impression/Mold Fossil)

Cast or Body Fossil

(Mineral Replacement)

Resin Fossil (Amber)

Trace Fossil

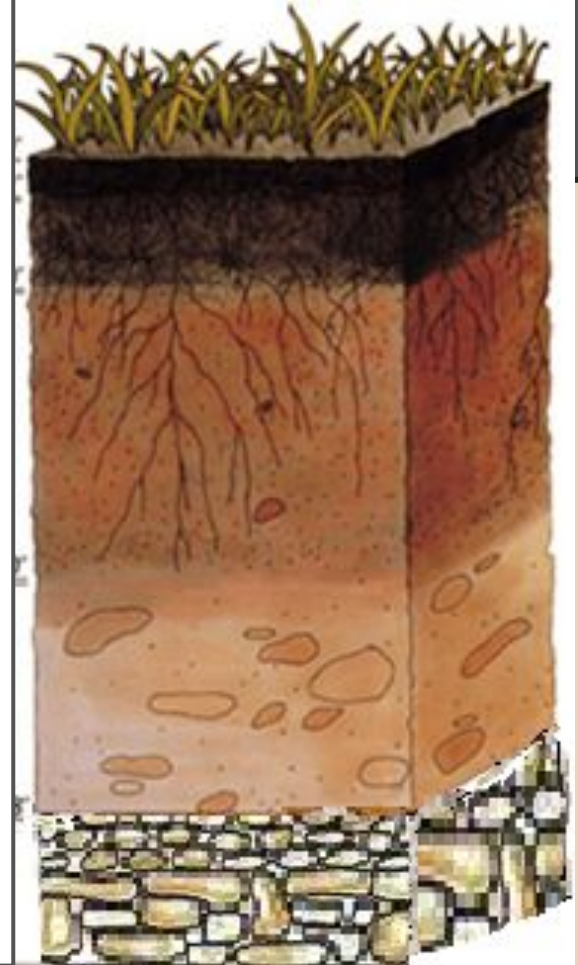
Organic Material

Topsoil

Subsoil

Parent Material

Bedrock



# Green River Fossils



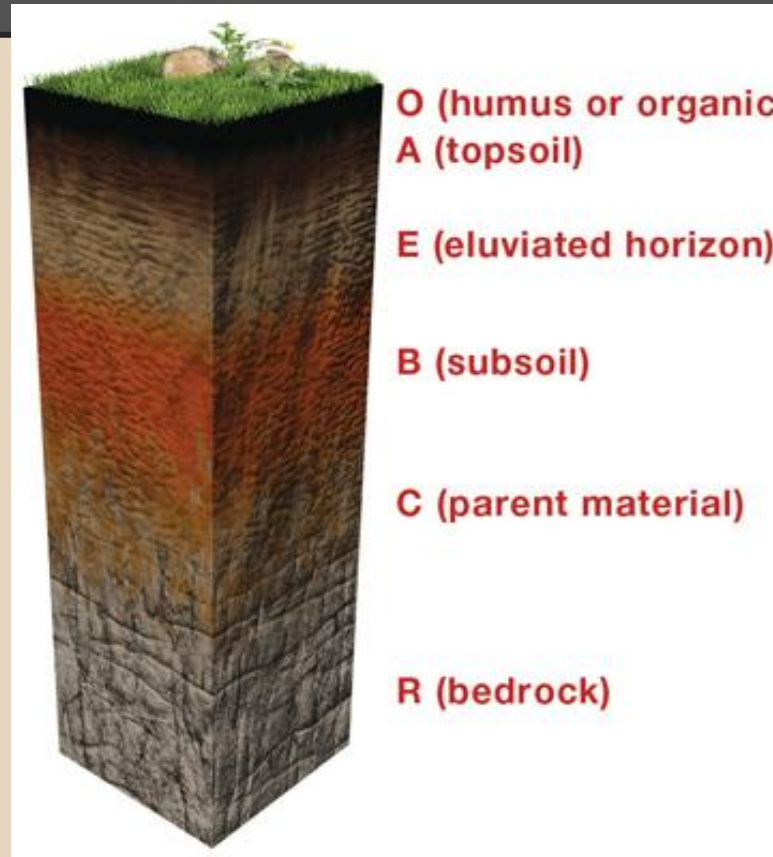
# Today's Project

- On top of paper plates, we will roll out our clay into slab molds to make 3 impressions.
- 2 of the impressions will be shells
- 1 impression will be a small, carved fish fossil cut out of the foam we normally print with
- Into these molds, we will pour plaster to set up as our cast fossils for next week.

# More Examples:

## Soil Profiles

Bedrock  
at Bottom





# More Examples:

## Soil Profiles

Bedrock  
at Bottom

O horizon  
(loose and partly  
decayed organic  
matter)

A horizon  
(mineral matter  
mixed with some  
humus)

E horizon  
(light colored  
zone of leaching)

B horizon  
(accumulation  
of clay from  
above)

C horizon  
(partially altered  
parent material)

unweathered  
parent material



# More Examples:



## **SOIL STRUCTURE**

**O-horizon: leaf litter,  
organic material**

**A-horizon: plough zone,  
rich in organic matter**

**B-horizon: zone of  
accumulation**

**C-horizon: weathering soil;  
little organic material or life**

**R-horizon: unweathered  
parent material**