

Answer Key

Name: _____ Hour: _____ Date: _____

Unit A Study Guide

1. What is scientific observation? (activity 1)

a complete and accurate description

2. How do scientists describe soil? Name at least 2 ways. (page A-25)

color, texture

3. What is topsoil? (page A-22)

rock, soil, air, water

4. Which soil category is best for farming? (page A-31)

A. desert

B. grassland

C. forest

D. tropical grassland

5. Thinking about the Dust Bowl, what happens when soil is not taken care of correctly? (activity 8)

it will blow away

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6. Why would someone need to buy fertilizer for their garden? (activity 9)

to provide missing nutrients

7. Organic material breaks down into nutrients. (page A-20)

8. Put the following in order from largest to smallest: silt, clay, sand (activity 5)

sand, silt, clay

9. If a soil contains a lot of _____, the texture will feel sticky. (page A-27)

A. soil

B. nutrients

C. clay

D. silt

10. Which of the following is not a scientific observation?

A. Miss Broy saw that the soil was grayish brown.

B. The students kept track of how many days it rained in September.

C. The thermometer showed Zac that the temperature was 75°F.

D. Kelly thought that the soil was too wet for the plants.

11. What are some reasons that a plant does not grow in a garden?

too much sun not enough sun

not enough nutrients

too much water

not enough water

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12. What are some solutions for a garden that does not have enough organic matter in the soil? What are the pros and cons for each option? (activity 11)

Solution	Advantages (pros)	Disadvantages (cons)
manufactured fertilizer	lots of nutrients easy to get	- nutrients can wash away - can pollute
organic fertilizer	slow release	- takes time - washes away (not as easy) - lasts longer
/		

13. Explain the difference between weathering, erosion, and deposition.

weathering - when rocks break down over time due to wind/rain/freezing

erosion - when heavy rain moves soil

deposition - when sediments stop moving and build up in one spot

