

Soil Formation Quiz

1) What type of climate produces the thickest soils?

- a) Continental
- b) Arid
- c) Tropical
- d) Subarctic

2) In the United States, residual soils are more common than transported soils.

- a) True
- b) False

3) Increased rainfall increases

- a) Weathering rate.
- b) The amount of rock that is dissolved.
- c) The rate that soil is formed.
- d) All of the above

4) A soil's parent rock determines

- a) The composition of the material that can become soil.
- b) Whether the soil will be residual or transported.
- c) The thickness of the soil that can form.
- d) Both A & B

5) Humus increases a soil's

- a) Porosity
- b) Ability to hold water

- c) Fertility
- d) All of the above

6) The longer the amount of time the soil remains in an area, the greater the degree of alteration.

- a) True
- b) False

7) Steep slopes tend to develop rich soils.

- c) True
- d) False

8) Decayed plants and animals in the soil create _____.

Humus

9) Decomposing organisms speed up soil formation because they

- a) Create organic acids that increase weathering.
- b) Break down complex organic molecules into simpler ones.
- c) Use up nitrogen, which speeds up soil-forming processes.
- d) A & B

10) Soils that are fertile contain a lot of

- a) oxygen
- b) organic materials
- c) clay
- d) sand

