**SOIL is a mixture of**

♦\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rocks and minerals

♦\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ material (decayed plants/animals)-also called HUMUS

♦\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

>>Soil is NONrenewable because it takes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of years to make

 **How is soil formed?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of rocks and minerals

2. decomposing organic material (leaves, grass, animals, etc) called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Why is soil so important**?

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_--food for plants (which we eat).
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_--a place for animals to live
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ storage—so plants can get the water they need (roots)

**SOIL TEXTURE--**What’s the difference between sand, silt, and clay?

….the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the particles (\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the largest; \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the smallest)

(LOAM is a mix of all 3—best soil)

**Basic Soil Horizons (LAYERS)**

 **--also called the soil profile**