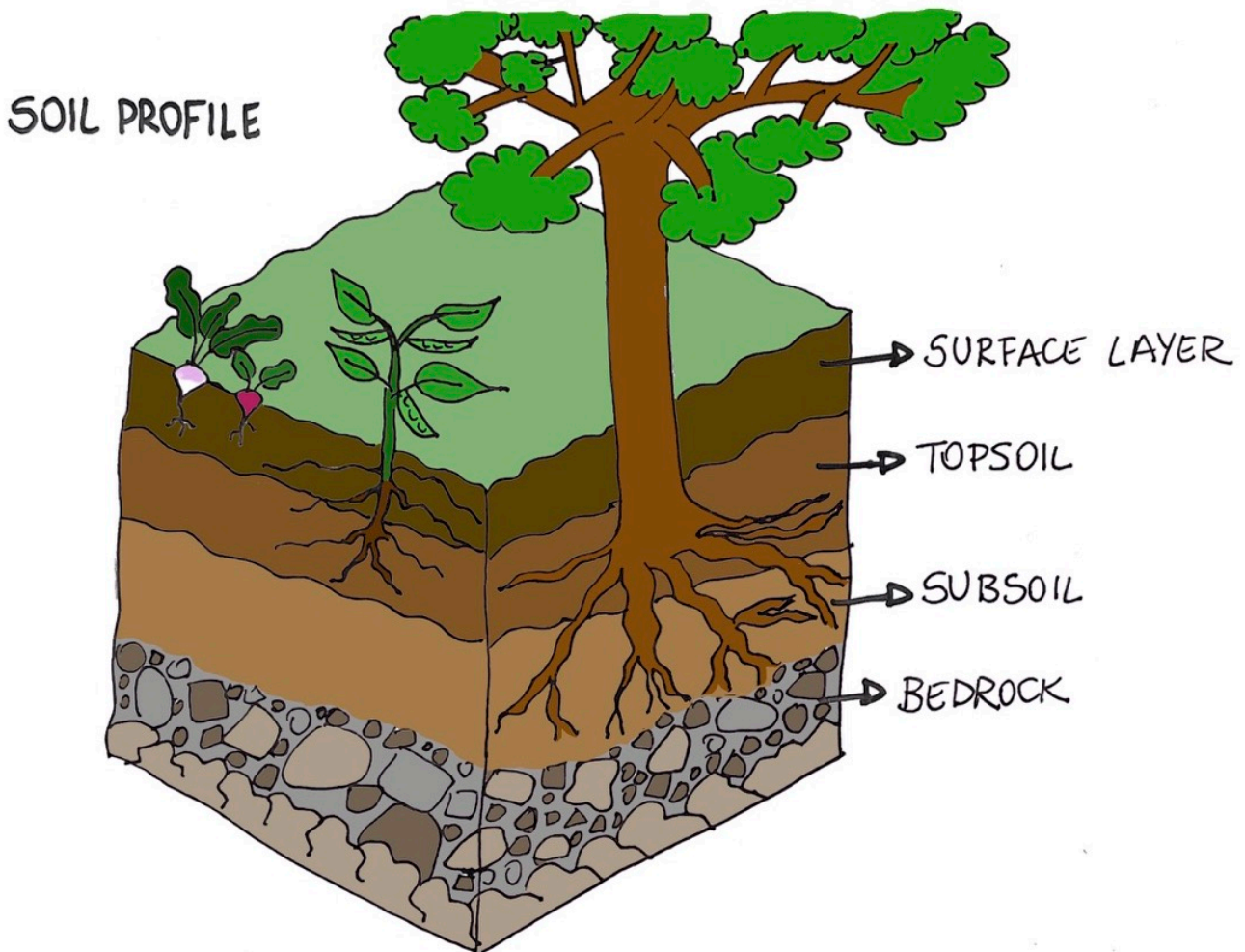




# Soil Investigations



**SURFACE LAYER:** THE UPPER SURFACE THAT IS MOSTLY DECOMPOSING PLANT MATERIAL.

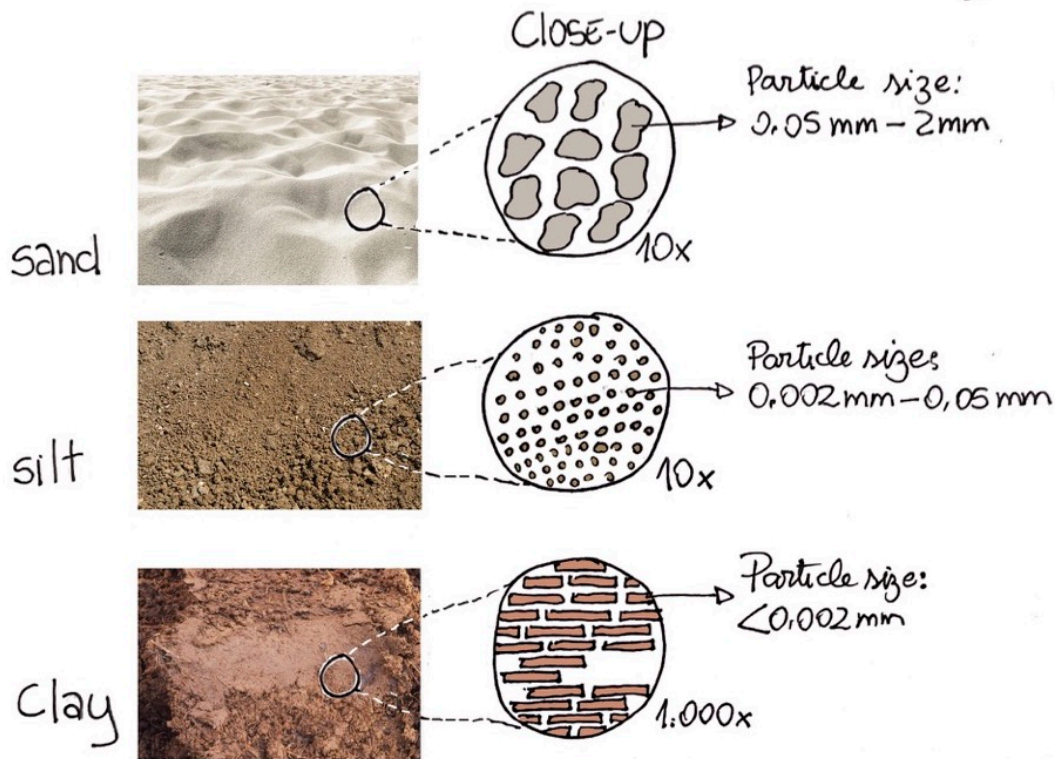
**TOPSOIL:** A MIXTURE OF DECOMPOSED PLANT MATERIAL AND DECOMPOSED MINERALS (ROCKS).  
THIS IS WHERE SEEDS GERMINATE AND PLANTS ROOTS GROW.

**SUBSOIL:** A LOWER LAYER OF SOIL WITHOUT MUCH PLANT MATERIAL OR LIFE.

**BEDROCK:** THE ABOVE SOIL TYPES REST UPON THE BEDROCK WHICH IS LARGELY  
COMPOSED OF UNBROKEN, HARD ROCK.

# Components of Soil

## Sand, Silt, and Clay



\*0.005 mm is the width of a human hair.

Soils ARE CATEGORIZED BY THEIR VARIOUS PERCENTAGES OF SAND, SILT, AND CLAY. WHEN THEY ARE IN ROUGHLY EQUAL PROPORTIONS IS IT CALLED LOAM. IF A SOIL HAS A MAJORITY OF ONE TYPE BUT STILL HAS THE OTHER TWO IT MAY BE CALLED A \_\_\_\_\_ LOAM, WHERE THE BLANK IS FILLED IN WITH THE MAJORITY TYPE. FOR EXAMPLE, A SOIL WITH LOTS OF SAND BUT SOME SILT AND CLAY WOULD BE CALLED SANDY LOAM.