

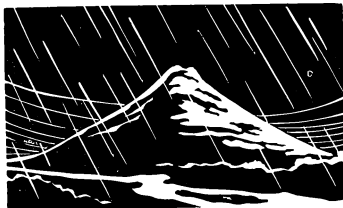
ELEMENTARY SCIENCE SECTION

THIS EARTH OF OURS

WHAT IS SOIL?

Last month we learned that the earth is continually changing, that parts of it are transferred to other places, or are broken into smaller, finer pieces with the help of wind, rivers, and plants and animals. By means of these actions which are called weathering and erosion soil is formed. Let us now see how soil is formed from rocks.

If we examine a big piece of rock, we usually find no soil on it. But during the rainy season very tiny plants called lichens manage to grow



on its surface. During this growth the plants dissolve a little of the surface of the rock so that when the masses of the plant fall from the rock, some rock particles fall from it. More water falls, more plants grow, and more and more soil material is built up. These may be carried by rivers or even rain water and the soil is carried to other places.

When deep beds of rock soil have been formed, these are enriched by fine sand, dust or clay blown by the wind. In addition to rock particles the soil contains humus which is the decayed bodies of animals and plants.

All kinds of soil contain water in different amounts. When soil is composed of finely divided particles a film of water covers each particle. These fit together and form tiny canals

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HOMES IN THE ANIMAL KINGDOM



THE DEN OF A BUMBLEBEE

Wherever there are flowers, you will see a bumblebee gathering pollen and honey from the blossoms. She is larger than the honeybee; she is dressed in black with yellow trimmings, furry-looking or velvety. If you live where you can take a walk across the field or along the edge of the woods you may see her flying very slowly, humming a tune with her wings. It will be a low tune her house-hunting song.

You know that different people like different kinds of houses. Animals also choose different kinds of homes. Some cave dwellers live in damp dens as you have read about the earth-worm. Some prefer dry ones. Some like them in the shade. Some would rather have them in sunny places. Where would you like your home to be?

It so happens that the bumblebee and the field mouse like exactly the same sort of cave. A den is a cave. This is very pleasant for the bumblebee for all she needs when she goes house-hunting is to find a vacant den that a field mouse

fore you joined this Boy Scout affair, you smoked, no? When you became a 'Black Pirate' last year, you were as good as any one of us in smoking, no?" Nano snapped his fingers contemptuously.

"That was when I was not yet a Boy Scout, and as ignorant as any of you are. Now, I know it's not good to smoke. I took the Scout Oath last week, and I promised not to smoke. I will not."

"Then you are no longer one of us!" came the rasping voice of Max. "You're through, as far as being a Black Pirate is concerned. We can't accept sissies around here!"

Complete silence fell on the group, for each one of them knew the significance of being ousted from the gang. Eagerly, I watched the boys.

"All right!"

Joel stood, and pushed the chair backward with a loud noise.

"All right!" he repeated, hitching up his trousers, and his voice, louder than before.

"I'm going away from your foolish, dirty 'Black Pirate' gang. Mother has always told me it's not good, and that all of you are bad boys. I used to disregard her advice, but I know it's true now.

"I'm not going to smoke. And furthermore, I'm quitting your gang. Go where you will and do what you like. I'm through with you from now on!"

THIS EARTH OF OURS

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upwards. These are known as capillary passages and these help water to ascend from below to the roots of plants.

In color the soil may be black, gray, brown, or even dull yellow. It may be either clayey and compact or sandy and porous. The fertility of the soil directly affects us. Many people live in places where the soil is fertile because they can make an easier living there.

Now let us see what the different kinds of soil are. Soil that remains above the bed rock from which it was formed is called *residual* soil. Soil that has been carried from the place where it was formed and deposited somewhere else is called *transported* soil. *Volcanic* soil is erupted from volcanoes.

What kind or kinds of soil are found in your locality? Tell your classmates what experiences you have had with the soil of Antipolo, of rice fields, in your garden or near a river bank.

THE FOREST OFFERS

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ladder is used. The nuts are also allowed to drop to the ground as they do when fully ripe.

Then the husk is removed from the nuts by soaking them

With that, the little boy strode out of the parlor, into the rain, and ran across the street, to take shelter inside the Drug Store there.

JOKES

Teacher—"If you would apply for a position what would you put in the body of your letter?"

Luisa—"I have read in the newspaper that you are in need of a typewriter. I am very glad to apply for the position."

Moises—"Why are you limping, Cirilo? Is your foot sore?"

Cirilo—"No."

Moises—"Why don't you walk straight?"

Cirilo—"Because I stepped on the horse manure of the carabao."

Pacifico—"Why do you have a black eye?"

Adriano—"Because of that beautiful new classmate of ours."

Pacifico—"Did she strike you with her wooden shoe?"

Adriano—"No, while looking at her, I bumped my face against the wall."

in cold water. In about an hour the pulp is removed. The nuts are then dried in the sun. Another method is to allow the husk to rot off by piling the nuts in a shade. Then the pili nuts are gathered and packed and shipped for export. Some of these finally find their way to our homes.