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Chapter 9: Soil

1. Word Meanings (शब्दार्थ)

S.No.	English Word	Hindi Meaning
1	Soil	मिट्टी
2	Formation	निर्माण
3	Nutrients	पोषक तत्व
4	Humus	सड़ी हुई जैविक सामग्री
5	Topsoil	ऊपरी मिट्टी
6	Subsoil	नीचे की मिट्टी
7	Bedrock	ठोस चट्टान
8	Sandy soil	रेतीली मिट्टी
9	Clayey soil	चिकनी मिट्टी
10	Loamy soil	दोमट मिट्टी
11	Silty soil	गाद वाली मिट्टी
12	Fertile	उपजाऊ
13	Habitat	रहने का स्थान / आवास
14	Decompose	सड़ना-गलना
15	Absorb	सोखना

2. Exercises

A. Tick (✓) the correct option:

1. What contributes to the weathering of rocks?

- a) Sunlight and rain
- b) Fossil fuel emissions
- c) By human activities
- d) All of these ✓ (Correct)

2. Which soil layer is rich in humus and nutrients?

- a) Subsoil
- b) Parent material
- c) Bedrock
- d) Topsoil ✓ (Correct)**

3. Which soil type is best suited for growing most plants?

- a) Sandy soil
- b) Clayey soil
- c) Loamy soil ✓ (Correct)**
- d) Silty soil

4. What is one important use of soil?

- a) Fuel production
- b) Animal habitat ✓ (Correct)**
- c) Air purification
- d) Space exploration

5. Which soil is good for making pottery and bricks?

- a) Sandy soil
- b) Clayey soil ✓ (Correct)**
- c) Loamy soil
- d) Silty soil

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. Soil formation can take hundreds or even thousands of years.
2. Topsoil is characterised by its dark colour due to the presence of humus.
3. Clayey soil is sticky when wet.
4. Loamy soil is a mixture of sand, silt and clay.
5. Soil serves as a foundation for buildings and roads, providing solid support.

C. Name the following:

1. The soil layer that contains broken rocks — **Parent material / Subsoil**
2. The type of soil that drains water quickly and is suitable for cacti — **Sandy soil**
3. The component of soil that is a result of plant and animal decomposition — **Humus**
4. The soil type that feels smooth and holds water better than sandy soil — **Silty soil**
5. The layer of soil that is solid rock and forms the base for soil formation — **Bedrock**

F. Answer the following questions:

Q1. Describe the process of weathering and its role in soil formation.

Ans: Weathering is the process where big rocks break down into tiny pieces over time due to wind, rain, and sunlight. These broken pieces slowly turn into soil.

Q2. Explain the characteristics and uses of loamy soil.

Ans: Loamy soil is soft, rich in humus, and holds both air and water very well. It is the best soil for farming and growing most plants.

Q3. Why is understanding soil types important for agriculture?

Ans: Understanding soil types helps farmers know which crops and plants will grow best in their soil, helping them get a good harvest.

Q4. Discuss two important ecological roles of soil.

Ans:

1. Soil provides a safe habitat for small animals, earthworms, and insects.
2. Soil holds water and essential nutrients that plants need to survive.

Q5. What are some practical uses of soil besides agriculture?

Ans:

1. Soil (clayey soil) is used to make bricks for constructing buildings and houses.
2. It is used to make clay pots, sculptures, and earthen toys.