It's More Than Just Dirt!

Everyday, we see elements of the environment that affect our daily lives, but we may not recognize their importance. Soil is a perfect example of this. Soil surrounds us each day: on our walk around town, as we mow the grass, and even when we play our sports or travel to the store, soil is under our feet constantly. And its importance to life and organisms is undeniable.

Your job today will be to create a visual aid of both soil horizons and soil profiles. Additionally, you will present facts and data about soil horizons and soil profiles so the class can not only see the importance of soil, but understand it, as well. Be sure to connect the relevance of the soil scientist in your presentation. How you do so is up to you; be creative, informative, and accurate.

STEP 1: In your small groups, research soil horizons and soil profiles. You may use Soil Science Society of America (www.soils.org) or the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service - Soils (https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/edu/?cid=nrcs142p2_054308) for research information.

STEP 2: Create a visual aid of soil horizons and soil profiles. This visual aid may be a poster, diagram, model, or any other visual aid you choose. It should be accurate, creative, appealing, and it must include a reference to the soil scientist career.

STEP 3: Write a verbal presentation that describes your visual aid of soil horizons and soil profiles. It should include a description of all required elements of the visual aid (see Visual Aid Rubric) and should also include a reference to the soil scientist career and how it relates to your information. You will be presenting this information verbally when you present your visual aid to the class.

STEP 4: Present your visual aid and your facts and data to the class. Be sure to connect your verbal presentation to the visual aid when you present. This presentation should be 2-4 minutes in length.

Your project will be graded with the Performance and Visual Aid Rubrics.