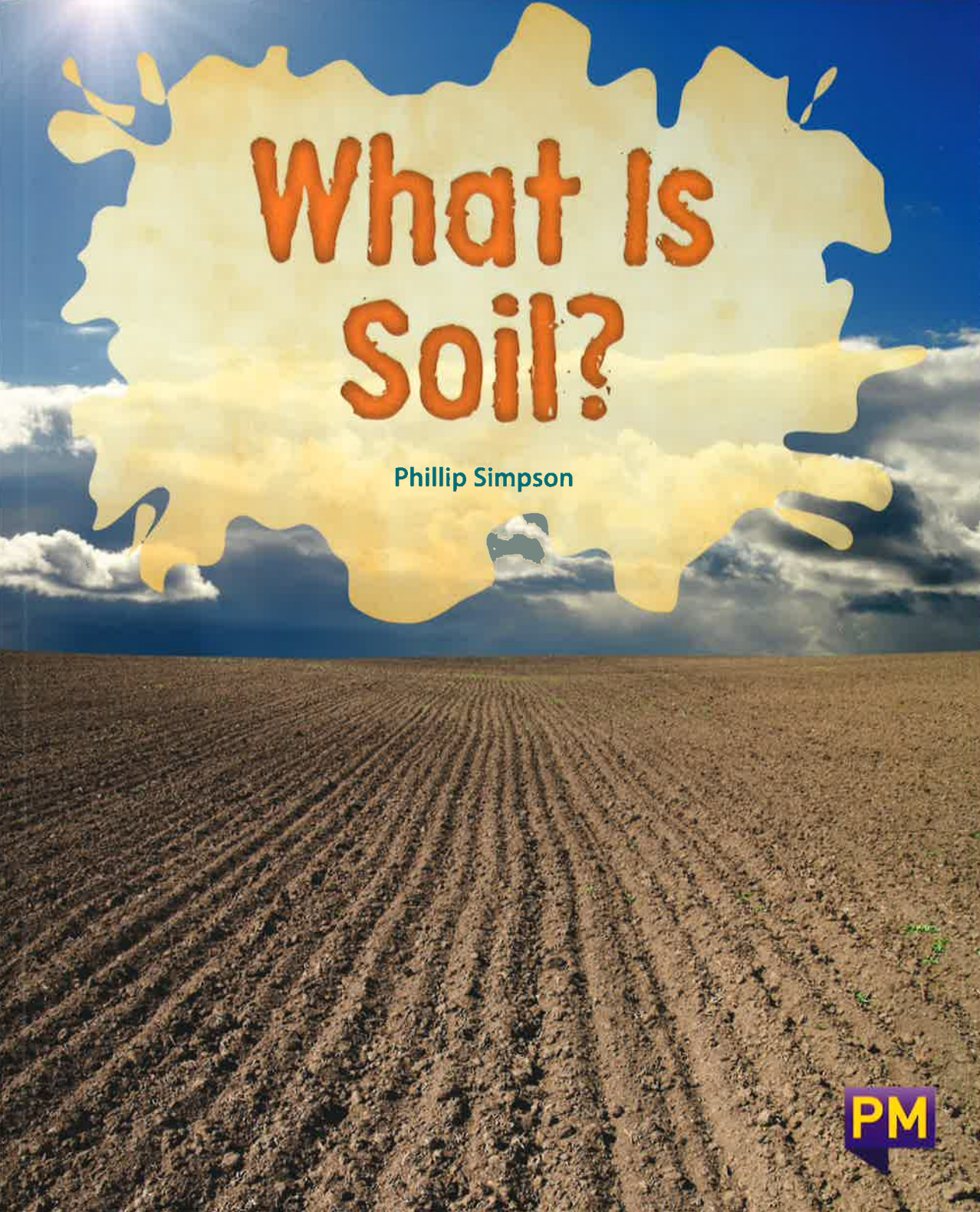

What Is Soil?
Phillip Simpson
PM

For teachers' inspection ONLY

What Is Soil?

Level 20
Running Words 495 **Text Type** Explanation (Informative)
Curriculum Area Science

Retelling to encourage critical thinking about the content

Ask each student to retell the explanation in his or her own words. Record the retelling for further discussion and reflection.

Questions to reinforce meaning and stimulate discussion

Literal

1 What is soil?
2 What is the layer of soil below humus called?
3 What are often found in subsoil?

Inferential

4 How do plants get food and water through their roots?
5 How can wind and rain break down bits of rock in the soil?
6 Why do plants grow well in humus?
7 Why are many roads made of gravel?
8 Why is there more water in clay than in other kinds of soil?

Applied Knowledge

9 Why is the soil from dead plants and animals very good?

Links with other PM Guided Reading Books and Cards

Level 20	Card	Recount	*Gardening with Dad*
Level 19	Book	Description	*Blue Lake*

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What Is Soil?

Phillip Simpson

Contents

What Is Soil? 2
How Is Soil Formed? 6
How Do We Use Soil? 14
Glossary 24

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What Is Soil?

Go outside and look at the ground under your feet.



You will see that the ground is made up of many things. **Soil** is one of those things on the ground.

But what is soil and how is it formed?

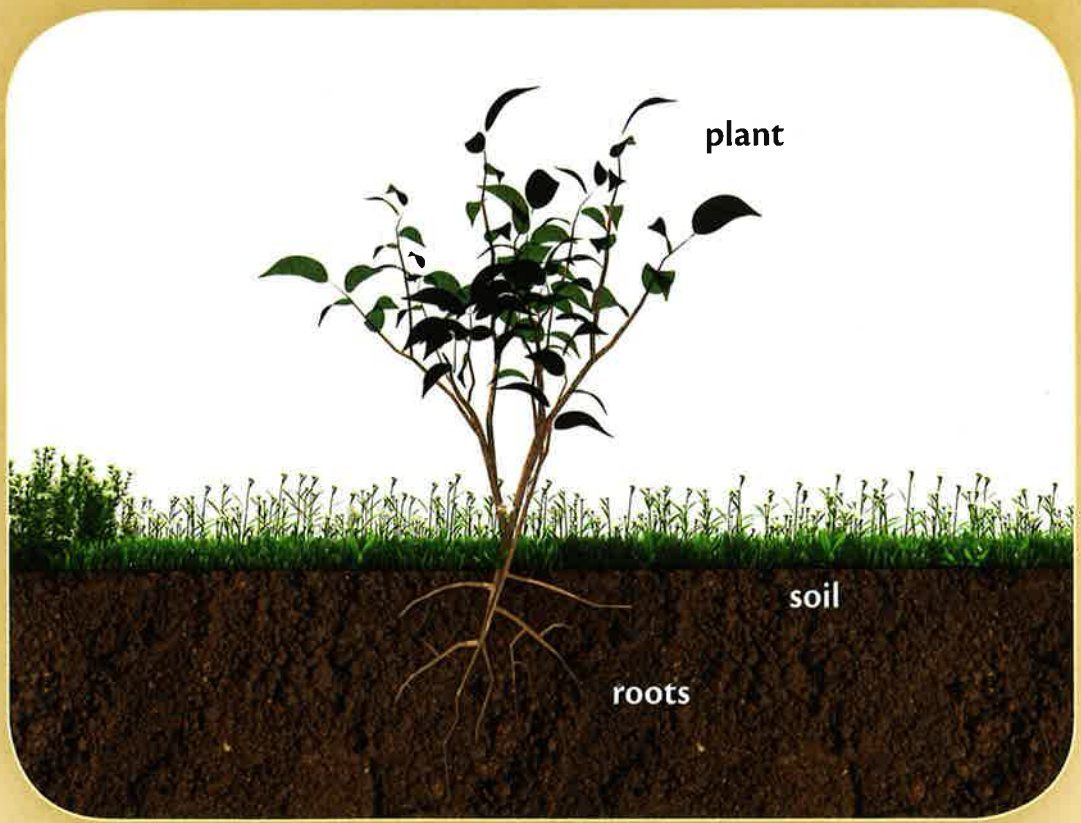


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Soil is the thin layer of ground on the surface of Earth.

Plants need to grow in soil.
They get food and water from the soil,
through their roots.



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Soil can be all kinds of colours and grain sizes.

Soil colours can be black, brown, white, grey, yellow or red.



How Is Soil Formed?

Soil is formed in many ways.
There are very tiny bits of rock in soil.

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These tiny bits of rock have been broken down over many years by rain and wind.

