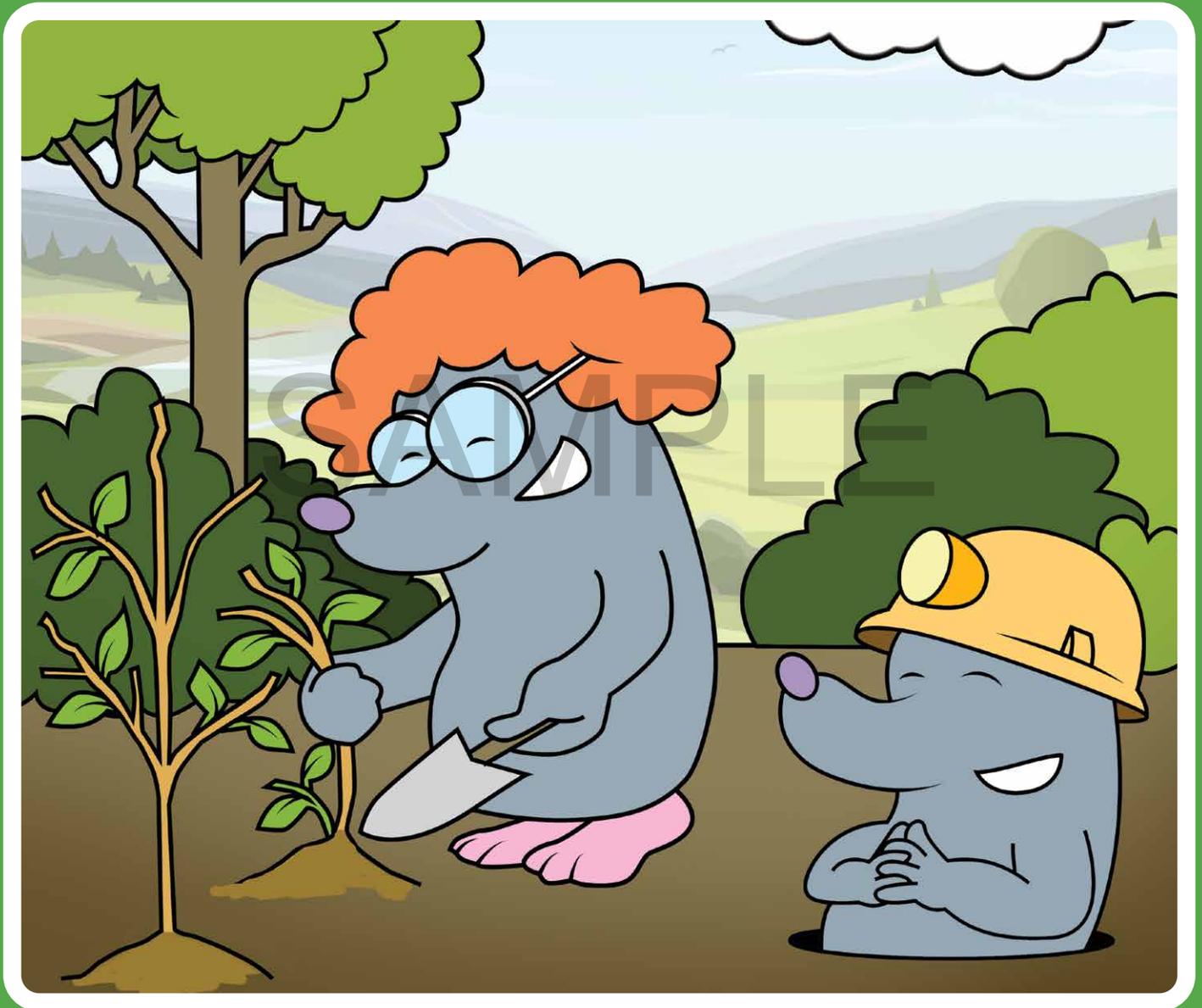


Learn about Soil with **MIA THE MOLE**



**Hi! I'm Mia the Mole, and I'm here to
teach you all about soil.**

SAMPLE



Soil is more than just dirt! It's a living ecosystem where plants like trees, vegetables, and flowers grow! We all depend on soil for food. Soil also filters our water and protects us from flooding.



Moles like me and my friend Max live in the soil, and so do lots of other animals. Soil is an amazing resource, so it's important to take care of it.



**For plants to grow, soil needs to be healthy.
If it's filled with garbage or chemicals,
or it's polluted, plants won't grow.**

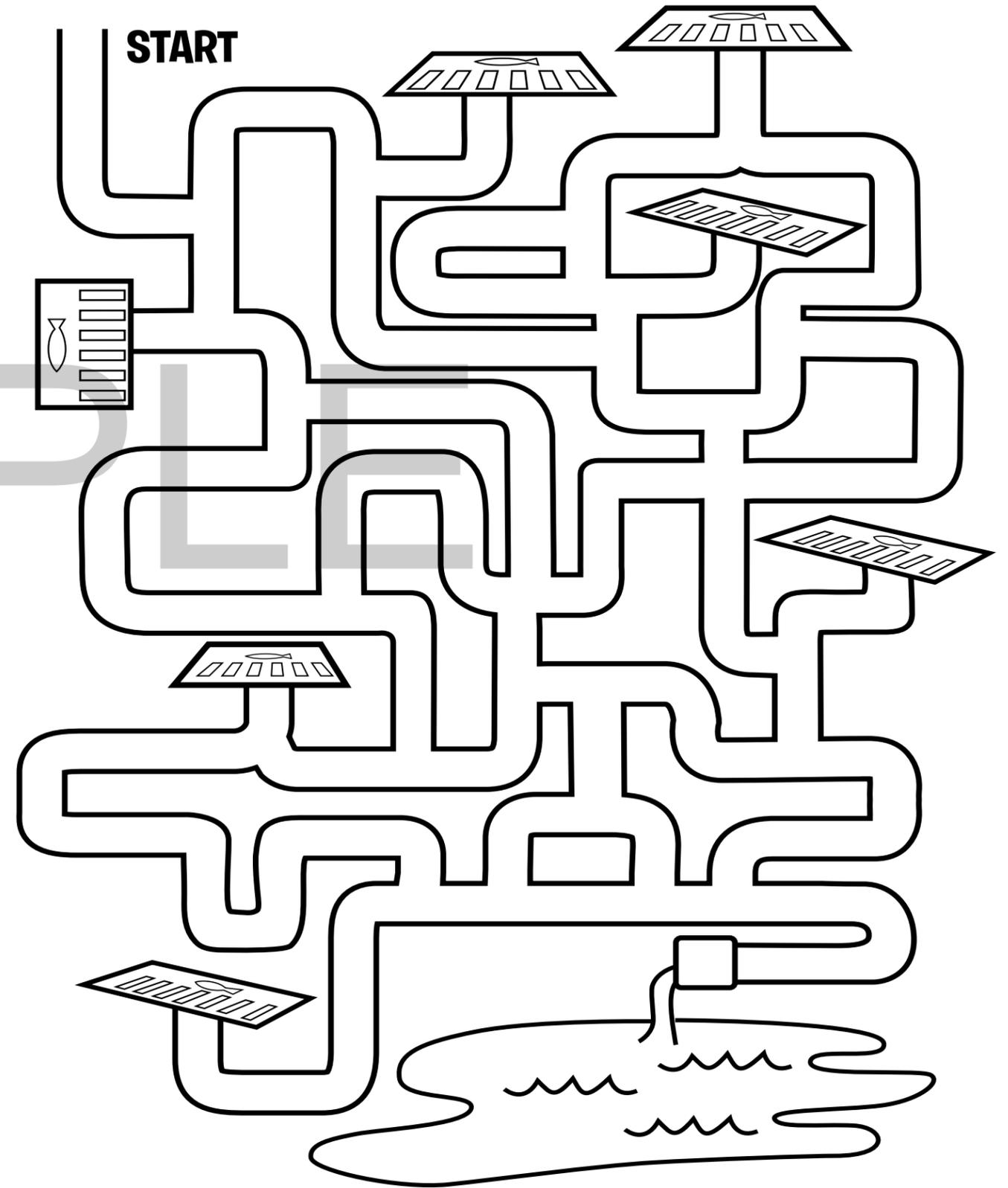
**Can you help Mia get rid of all of the pollution in the
picture by crossing it out?**



Soil also needs clean water to help plants grow. Soil gets water from rain and from local bodies of water. So it's important to keep our waterways clean to help protect soil.



We should never dump garbage or chemicals into storm drains, because they lead to local waterways. Can you get through this stormwater system drain maze?



Soil soaks up water like a sponge when it's healthy. Healthy soil means healthy plants whose roots help hold the soil in place, and that helps protect against floods.

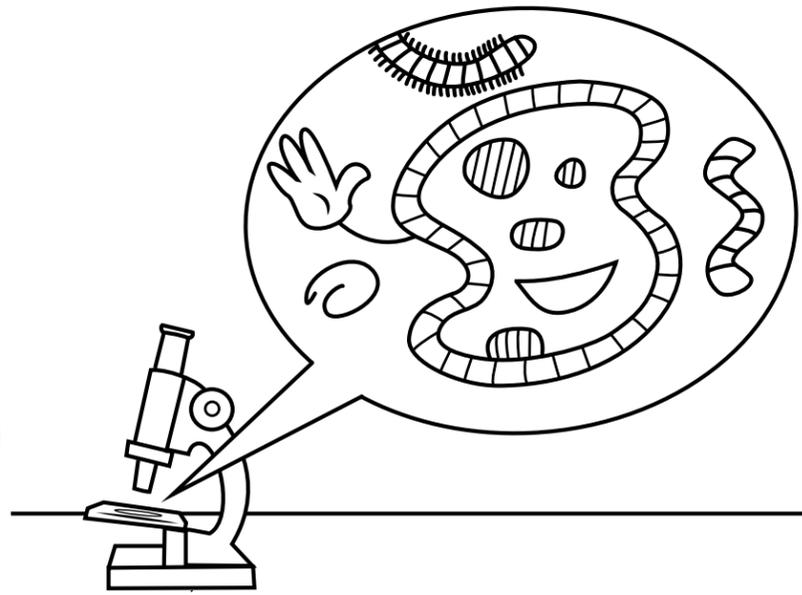


But if it gets too dry or unhealthy, soil can be washed away by strong rains. That's called erosion. Can you connect the dots to complete the riverbank and protect against erosion?



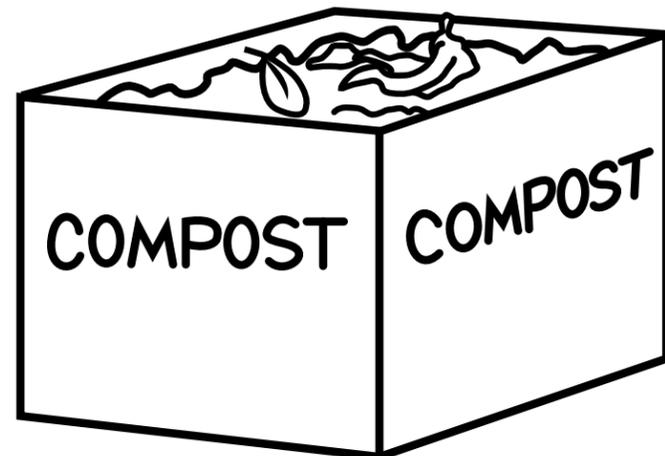
DID YOU KNOW?

Soil is alive! A teaspoon of soil may contain up to 1 billion microorganisms.



DID YOU KNOW?

Soil helps us feel better! Almost all the antibiotics we take today to help us fight infections were made from soil microorganisms.



DID YOU KNOW?

We can help make healthy soil for planting by composting our food waste.

DID YOU KNOW?

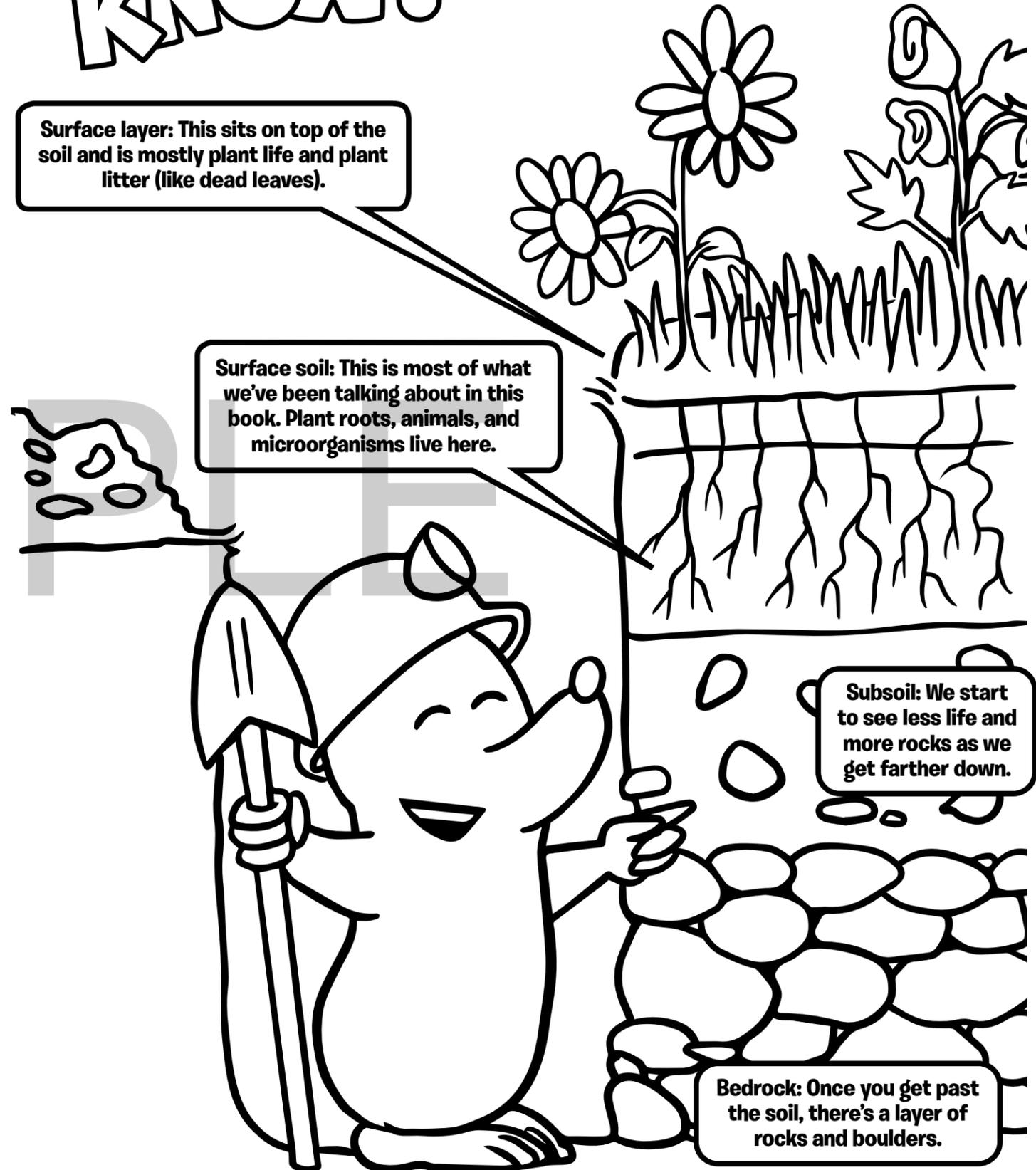
Soil has layers! Different layers of soil are made of different stuff, and these are called soil horizons.

Surface layer: This sits on top of the soil and is mostly plant life and plant litter (like dead leaves).

Surface soil: This is most of what we've been talking about in this book. Plant roots, animals, and microorganisms live here.

Subsoil: We start to see less life and more rocks as we get farther down.

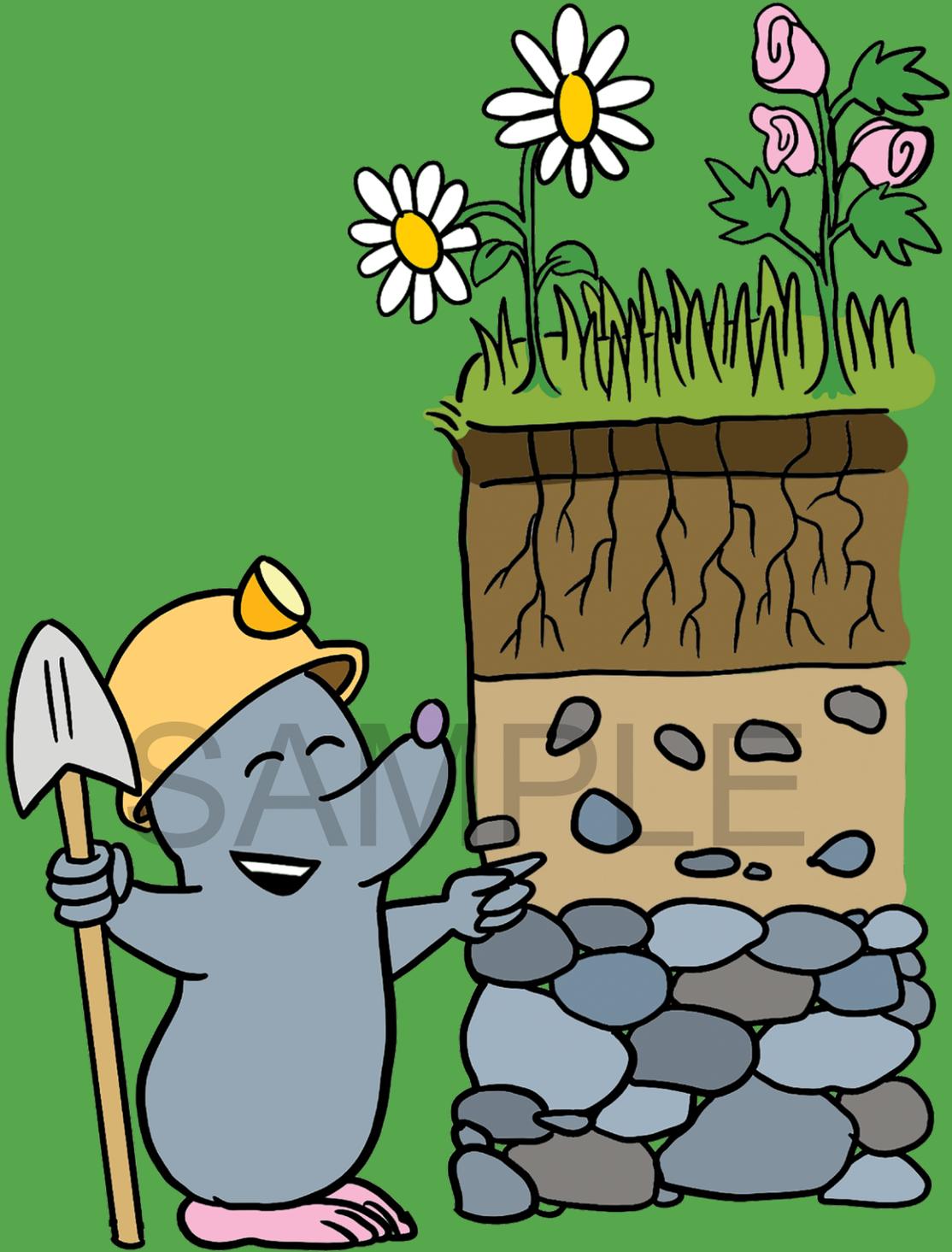
Bedrock: Once you get past the soil, there's a layer of rocks and boulders.



Thanks for learning about soil with us!



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