



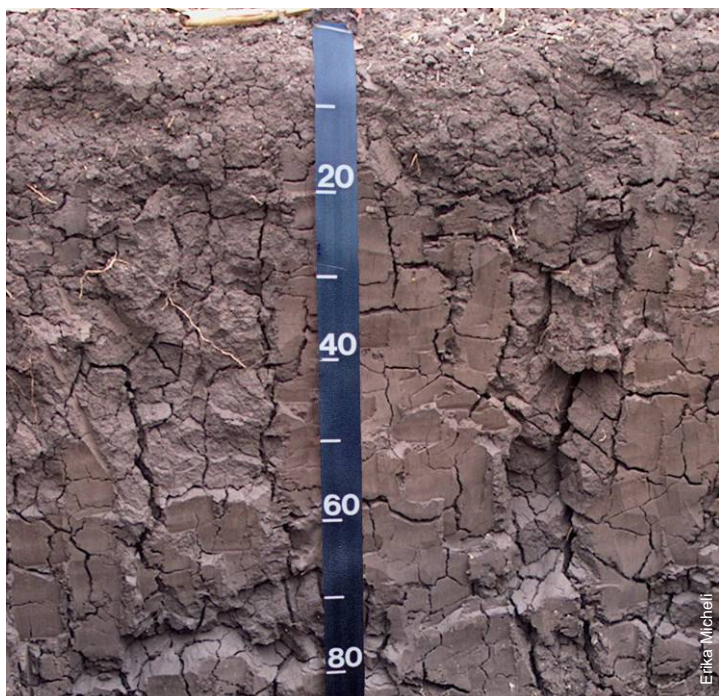
SOIL AS A HABITAT

THE PORE NETWORK!

While it looks solid, soil is full of space to live if you are very small.

This space can be determined by the structure and texture of the soil. Many creatures create their own spaces by burrowing.

Clay soil often has more bacteria than sandy soil because clay creates lots of small pores (spaces) which offer protection for bacteria.



Erika Michell

THE ROOT ZONE

The **rhizosphere** is the part of soil that is influenced by the roots of plants.

Many soil organisms prefer to live close to the roots of plants.

Plant roots release organic compounds into the soil. These compounds, called exudates, increase the availability of nutrients in the rhizosphere and also provide a source of carbon for heterotrophic microorganisms.

Thus, the number of microorganisms in the rhizosphere is greater than in the rest of the soil.



Erika Michell